



## Scary Glenda declines to revisit a honeymoon nightmare

The la... ne I saw Glenda... on naked was in a way carriage. I... in undergraduate... was only... election is dis... and the nightmares were... ubring yesterday when... stred. Ladyman (Lab, Step... ) invited her to... Thay him in a railway... acon Kent.

This was ungallant, and unfair. In her lean, stern way and with her beautifully severe voice, the junior Transport Minister has a strong if scary appeal. But Ladyman went a speculation too far when he suggested that Jackson's son would need "masochistic" cautions had altered.

Earlier railway frolics with the youngovsky, in Russia. They... in their honeymoon in... Russell's film *The Music... Neither the rail-room,*

nor the honeymoon in general were [as I recall] a great success, probably because the composer was gay — though Auberon Waugh saw cause and effect differently: "Any one might become a homosexual who has once seen Glenda Jackson naked."

There was a growl from Jackson. "Open-minded though I am, masochism has never had any appeal for me," she said, sardically.

There's always something weird about questions to John Prescott and his ghoulish team. Even the backbenchers seem odd. Yesterday, Ronnie Campbell's outfit was truly bizarre.

But he does enjoy a laugh. Yesterday Mr Campbell wore a blue jacket, dark trousers

To appreciate how bizarre,

### MATTHEW PARRIS POLITICAL SKETCH

note that 55-year-old Mr Campbell (Lab, Blyth Valley) is as "old" Labour as four composite resolutions and a tub of mushy peas. An unemployed miner when elected, his accent is Geordie, his complexion beaten brick, and his opinions... well, antediluvian.

But he does enjoy a laugh.

Yesterday Mr Campbell wore a blue jacket, dark trousers

really loves at Questions on Environment, Transport and the Regions: moaning about the railways.

MPs formed themselves into a passable imitation of a herd of grumpy commuters on a windy railway station somewhere in the marshes of Kent. "Every day," groused John Reid, the Transport Minister, "brings a new horror story..."

"Only this morning a colleague of mine stood on a platform at Elmstead Wood, in 20 minutes Connex cancelled three trains." Jonath-

an Shaw (Lab, Chatham & Aylesford) had brought him appalling news of Connex South Eastern's trains service to Kent.

Roger Gale (C, Thanet N) was not leaving the griping to Labour: the Margate service was "frightful". Not to be outdone, Derek Wyat (Lab, Sittingbourne & Sheppey) wanted to discuss "the dreaded Victoria". Recently he had left Victoria until 1.15, and the journey should take an hour. MPs gasped.

There are moments in the history of these islands when the issue is just too grave to be trivialised by party-political squabbling. At such an hour, when fear and outrage stalk the land, men and women of goodwill lay aside their political allegiances to reason together.

We then see the House at its best. Thus it must be during wars and national emergencies. Thus it was during the Abdication Crisis.

And thus it is in all questions relating to the Kent railways.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Setback for cancer claim case

The first British legal action by lung cancer victims against tobacco companies suffered a severe setback yesterday when a High Court judge ruled that some of the plaintiffs had run out of time.

Mr Justice Wright, sitting in Liverpool, said the eight plaintiffs could not proceed with their actions against Gallaher and Imperial Tobacco because they had been brought outside the three-year legal time limit.

Now only 14 sufferers from an original cohort of 52 can contemplate going ahead with claims. A trial is scheduled for January next year, but the smaller the group, the greater the burden of legal costs should they lose.

#### Saatchi's gift

Charles Saatchi, the country's leading collector of contemporary art, has donated 100 works to the Arts Council's collection, which lends art to buildings with public access, international exhibitions, and national touring shows run by the Hayward Gallery. The 100 works are valued at £50,000.

#### Justice at last

A man was convicted of a murder committed almost six years ago because boot polish had preserved a tiny stain of the victim's blood on his shoe. Advances in DNA profiling resulted in Peter Hastings, 30, of Braids Heath, Birmingham, being given life for killing his lover, Jean Bellis, 33.

#### Fraud fiasco

A project to clamp down on disability benefit cheats uncovered only 79 cases of suspected fraud, a Commons Select Committee said. None had resulted in a prosecution. The MPs said that the project, which is to be replaced next month, led to many disabled people wrongly losing benefit.

#### Doctor struck off

A prison doctor was struck off the medical register after prescribing lethal doses of methadone to two inmates in Brixton prison. Archibald Alexander, 63, of Croydon, South London, was found guilty of serious professional misconduct at a General Medical Council hearing in London.

#### Prison reform

Mother and baby units in prisons should be replaced with small community-based secure hostels, prison reformers said yesterday. The Howard League told the Prison Service that children should not have to pay for their mothers' crime by being sent to prison with them or forcibly separated.

#### Exorcist returns

The horror film *The Exorcist* is to be available uncut on video. A quarter of a century after it was made, it has been passed by the British Board of Film Censors under its new director, Robin Duval. Although long considered too disturbing for home viewing, the video has been granted an 18 rating.

## Alarm over threat to Royal Ordnance

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, MICHAEL EVANS AND PHILIP WEBSTER

HE Armed Forces may have relied on foreign suppliers for all its ammunition stocks after British Aerospace gave warning yesterday that its Royal Ordnance factories could close in six months.

The prospect of the main British supplier of artillery shells, bullets and high explosives going out of business caused much alarm last night. Defence sources said that the Ministry of Defence no longer kept large stocks of ammunition and needed to rely on companies such as Royal Ordnance when Britain went to war.

With bitter memories of Belgium, a Nato partner, refusing to supply Britain with shells when stocks ran low during the 1991 Gulf War, the Armed Forces consider it crucial for their chief ammunition supplier to be British.

John Maples, the Shadow Defence Secretary, called on the Government to ensure that Britain maintained a "cast-iron reliable source of ammunition".

"There have been instances in the past of both France and Belgium refusing to supply weapons to us and they are friendly neighbouring countries," he said.

Mr Maples added that contracts had recently been awarded to firms in countries such as South Africa. "If we have to rely on supplies from countries outside our military alliances we are getting into a dangerous situation. The Govern-

ment has a duty to step in and safeguard our short-term supplies."

The Commons Select Committee on Defence is expected to question ministers shortly about the future of Royal Ordnance, Bruce George, the committee's Labour chairman, said that the company had been acquired by British Aerospace at a low price and had already shed workers and closed sites.

"Those that are left are making important military products and it would be hugely unfortunate if their ability to manufacture them was lost and we had to import from abroad. These are assets we can ill afford to lose," he said.

The warning from British Aerospace that it can no longer guarantee the survival of

the loss-making Royal Ordnance factories, which have manufactured ammunition since 1560, was made despite a £100 million contract awarded by the MoD before Christmas to supply ammunition for the next five years.

Last night a spokesman for the MoD said that efforts were being made to forge a partnering arrangement with Royal Ordnance to keep it in business, but that no deal was imminent. British Aerospace believes that a deal could involve a cash injection or guaranteed sales, but the MoD said that Royal Ordnance could also set up a joint venture with a foreign company.

The company has seen losses mount after a major downturn in demand for its bullets and high explosives since the end of the Cold War. Over the past ten years the MoD has cut its ammunition orders from £350 million a year to £150 million. Overseas sales have also been affected.

The Royal Ordnance plant at Bishopton, near Glasgow, which employs 300 people has already been earmarked for closure.

Robin Southwell, the managing director of BAE's defence systems group, said that BAE was "bearing a considerable burden" and running out of third-party options.

The news will dismay the Government, which is already struggling to protect about 50,000 jobs associated with Rover's Longbridge car plant in the West Midlands, which may be closed by BMW, its German parent.

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#### FROM DRAKE TO THATCHER

The Royal Ordnance began life in 1560, when a group of gunpowder manufacturers started work at Waltham Abbey, Essex. The long war with Spain meant that Sir Francis Drake was buying all the gunpowder it could produce. He set up a second armoury in Woolwich to keep captured guns.

Over the centuries, the two camps provided arms for the Battle of Waterloo and the Boer War. In the

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Firmly in the middle of the road: Tony Blair with Jimmy Young yesterday

## Blair keeps his cool with the JY Prog

BY PETER BARNARD

DANCE music was playing when Tony Blair walked into a BBC radio studio in London yesterday. The Prime Minister asked Jimmy Young, off-air: Is this M People? It was. What with M People, Frank Sinatra 14 minutes into the interview and a guitar track by a couple of ex-Shadows 15 minutes later. Radio 2's centrist music policy was firmly in place. Enough to make any new Labour Prime Minister feel at home.

Jimmy Young's show, with about 3.4 million listeners, is a favoured staging post for politicians reaching out to the people. Mr Blair's previous venture was the appearance on ITV's *This Morning*, during which the Prime Minister nudged Glenn Hoddle to step nearer to his next life.

Nothing so dramatic occurred yesterday. The questions mainly focused on health and education. Young, who is either 74 or 75 depending on which branch of the BBC personnel office you consult, is by no means a soft-touch interviewer and he was up to the job.

Mr Blair, like most politicians, is a past master at ignoring, repolishing or inventing statistics, so that a typical question, about the 15,000 alleged failures in the teaching profession (why haven't you cleared out the no-hoppers?) elicited a reply about the others: Let's celebrate the fact that the vast bulk of them are up to the job.

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# Accused in war crimes trial 'embraced the Final Solution with enthusiasm'

**Tim Jones** on court allegation that former BR ticket collector was one of first to volunteer for Nazi police

BRITAIN'S first war crimes trial was told yesterday that the 77-year-old accused man had helped to kill Jews "with enthusiasm" after embracing the Nazi policy of the Final Solution.

Anthony Sawoniuk faces four charges of murder under the War Crimes Act, allegedly committed in his native Belarus, but is accused of murdering many more.

John Nutting, QC, for the prosecution, told an Old Bailey jury in measured, dispassionate tones of the horror that befell the predominantly Jewish village of Domachevo after it had been overrun by the Nazi war machine in 1941.

Mr Sawoniuk, a former British Rail ticket collector from Bermondsey, South London, displayed no emotion as Mr Nutting outlined the case against him in a crowded Court No 12. Dressed in a brown suit and checked cardigan, he sat not in the dock but in the well of the court.

Mr Nutting said that Mr Sawoniuk was among the first to volunteer for the local police force set up by the Nazis who, on the Yom Kippur holy day in September 1942, massacred 2,900 Jews. Some other Jews had managed to flee to a forest or to hide in the village ghetto, where they were confined behind barbed wire.

Although there is no evidence that Mr Sawoniuk, who was made commander of the police force, took part in the original massacre, he was prominent in the search-and-kill operation aimed at those who had escaped.

Referring to the four murder charges, Mr Nutting said: "On each count, say the Crown, this defendant executed Jewish men and women whose only offence was to be Jewish and who had escaped the main massacre of several thousand Jews when the ghetto in Domachevo was liquidated."

The evidence indicates, in our submission, that the defendant not only was prepared to do the Nazi bidding, but carried out their genocidal policy with enthusiasm."

Mr Nutting said that survivors from the ghetto, where Jews were starving and freezing to death in one of the worst winters on record, were rounded up and marched down a track that became known as the "road of death". It led to an execution site known as the sand hills, where they were forced to strip before being shot.

Five days after the main

## THE CHARGES

Anthony Sawoniuk faces four charges under the War Crimes Act of 1991 of committing murders "in circumstances constituting a violation of the laws and customs of war".

That, between September 19 and 27, 1942, in Domachevo, Belarus, a town under German occupation, he murdered a Jewish man, between September 19 and October 4, 1942, in Domachevo, he murdered a Jew known as Schlemi; that, between the same dates, in Domachevo, he murdered another Jewish man; and that, between September 19, 1942, and December 31, 1942, also in Domachevo, he murdered a Jew known as Mir Barias.

Another witness, Ivan Stepaniuk, saw Mr Sawoniuk and another policeman escort a 50-year-old Jew named Shlemi towards the execution site among the sand hills. Mr Sawoniuk, he said, was hitting the Jew with a spade, causing him to fall. About two minutes later, Mr Stepaniuk said, he heard a single shot from the trees.

On another occasion another witness, Ben-Zion Blusstein, saw Mir Barias, a Jew aged about 21, being taken from the police station by the Germans and handed over to Mr Sawoniuk and two other policemen. "The defendant and the other policemen took him in the direction of the sand hills. The witness never saw Barias again.

A few days after this incident, the witness asked the defendant what had happened to Barias. The defendant said that Barias had been in a good mood before he was shot.

Mr Nutting said that Mr Blusstein, who had stayed with his family in a little hiding place for eight days, remembered an incident in which he saw a number of policemen taking an 80-year-old Jew into the street, setting fire to his beard and stabbing him.

Mr Nutting said that Mr Sawoniuk, who was born in the village, came from a poor family. His mother earned money by washing household items and clothes for Jews. Mr Sawoniuk used to earn pocket money by lighting fires, chopping wood or fetching water for them on the Sabbath. Everyone in Domachevo knew Mr Sawoniuk by the nickname of

Andrusha, which he acquired at an early age.

"That name is so fixed in the consciousness of the survivors from that period that those who do not remember the defendant's Christian or surname remember him as Andrusha," Mr Nutting said. Mr Sawoniuk had married a Russian midwife called Anna during the Nazi occupation, but she was killed in crossfire during a partisans' attack on the police station.

Before the war most of the inhabitants of the thriving spa town of Domachevo were Jews. Only 10 per cent were Poles, Ukrainians and Belarusians.

"The relations between the races in this area was generally peaceful and harmonious and there was little antisemitism," said Mr Nutting. All that changed after the Nazi invasion.

Mr Nutting said: "It is apparent that the defendant carried out his police duties as a policeman conscientiously. He frequently searched Jews on

their journeys in and out of the ghetto and if he found any forbidden item in the possession of a Jew, he invariably assaulted the culprit.

"One day a young Jewess, on return to the ghetto from work on a farm, tried to smuggle some potatoes into the ghetto. Mr Sawoniuk found them, beat her savagely, arrested her and put her in detention.

However, he did not now dispute that he served as a policeman in Domachevo at the relevant time, nor that he was regarded by others as a senior officer. "nor that he left Domachevo in 1944 in company with the Nazis as they fled.

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# The worst may not be over for meningitis town

After three deaths, a pupil is critically ill and parents blame official delay, reports Simon de Bruxelles

DOCTORS will not know for nearly a week whether they have contained an outbreak of meningococcal meningitis that has killed three people in one small town.

More than 1,700 pupils and staff at three schools in Pontypridd, South Wales, were vaccinated against the disease yesterday. Seven children are in hospital, bringing the total of cases in the area to 11.

Stuart Mortram, 16, was last night described as "very critically ill". He was a pupil at the same school as Gareth Gould, 15, who died last week. Stuart's parents were praying at his bedside in the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff. A child aged 11 was described as "critical but improving".

Despite the mass vaccination and the distribution of antibiotics to everyone who had been in close contact with the sick, the doctor in charge of the public health operation gave a warning that it was too early to say if the outbreak was over.

Merion Evans, a specialist in communicable diseases with Bro Taf Health Authority, said: "We have had no cases in school pupils since Saturday, but we still have a number of days before the incubation period has run its course."

He defended the health authority's decision not to issue antibiotics to children after Gareth's death a week last Sunday. National guidelines advise mass treatment only after more than one case.

Many parents, including those of Lisa Pearn, 15, who is recovering at the East Glamorgan General Hospital, said

that the authorities could have prevented the illness spreading if they had acted sooner.

On Monday evening, after the declaration of a public health emergency, 38 children were taken to the hospital in Pontypridd. A further 20 had been taken in by lunchtime yesterday. All were allowed home after examination.

On a cold, bright morning, 1,100 pupils from Coed-y-Lan Comprehensive School filed in for their injections. Some were brought by parents while others arrived in a convoy of white school buses, nervously aware that the disease is believed to be spread by close contact in confined spaces. Subsidized and apprehensive, few stayed to talk to school friends. Many had not been to school since Gareth died within hours of being taken ill.

Similar scenes were evident at the comprehensive's lower school in the centre of town and at Treboralt Primary, each of which had had two pupils fall ill with the disease. All were relieved that the governors had decided to close the schools until after the half-term holiday next week. Few believed the reassurance of the health authority that the chances of contracting the infection at school were tiny.

Richard Male, 16, said: "If they hadn't closed [Coed-y-Lan], no one would have come in anyway. My parents have kept me off since last week. I've had several people in Ponty ask where I go to school. Some of them are just curious, but others look nervous."

The school is on the site of the former Albion Colliery.

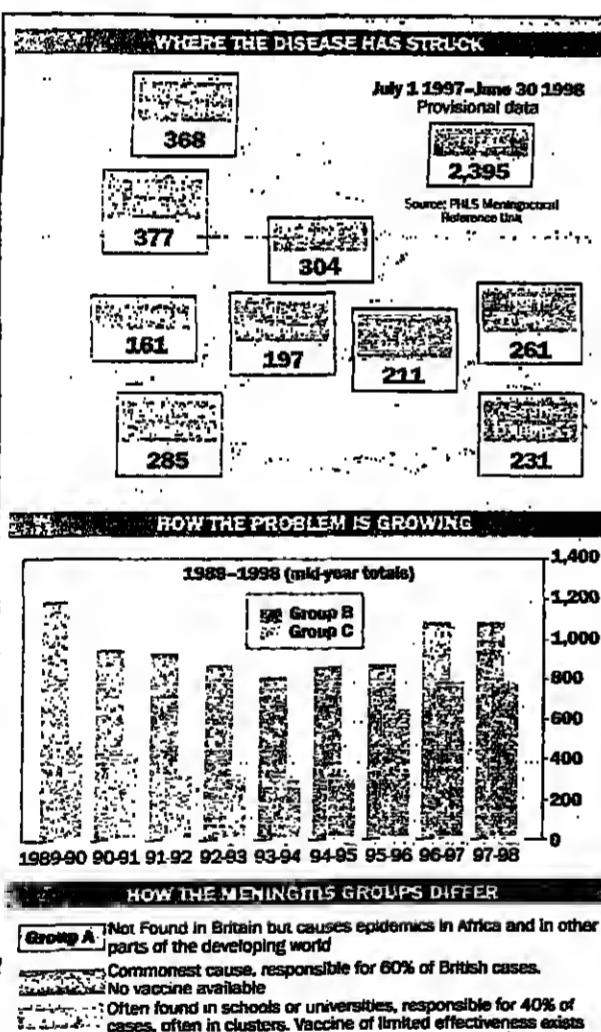
scene of one of Britain's worst meningitis disasters. In July 1994, 290 men and boys were killed, most of them from the same tiny hillside community above the town where several of the meningitis victims live.

Doctors believe that there is no direct connection between the outbreak in the three schools and two other recent deaths in Pontypridd. Lynne James, the head of domestic education at the Roman Catholic Cardinal Newman School, died on Sunday night. A pensioner in her sixties died in the town last month.

Jon Owen Jones, the Welsh Health Minister, told the Commons yesterday that extra vaccines and antibiotics had been brought in from Bristol and the West Midlands.



Children at Coed-y-Lan Comprehensive School after receiving vaccinations yesterday. A fellow pupil has died and another is in intensive care



## Better vaccine is on the way

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE form of meningitis responsible for the cases in Pontypridd has become much more common in recent years.

Group C meningitis — caused by a particular form of the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis* — is particularly common in teenagers and seems more prone to causing clusters of cases.

It reached Britain in the early 1990s, probably from Canada, where it had caused outbreaks similar to the one in Pontypridd. In vulnerable people it can cause extremely rapid development of symptoms, and death.

"Some will get very ill very quickly, but in others it is not so life-threatening," according to Julia Warren, of the Meningitis Research Foundation. "We don't know why it affects some people one way and others quite differently."

Nor is it known why people in their late teens or early twenties are so vulnerable. Babies are at greatest risk because their immune systems have yet to develop fully, but the next highest incidence is in those aged 15 to 19.

A research project at the In-

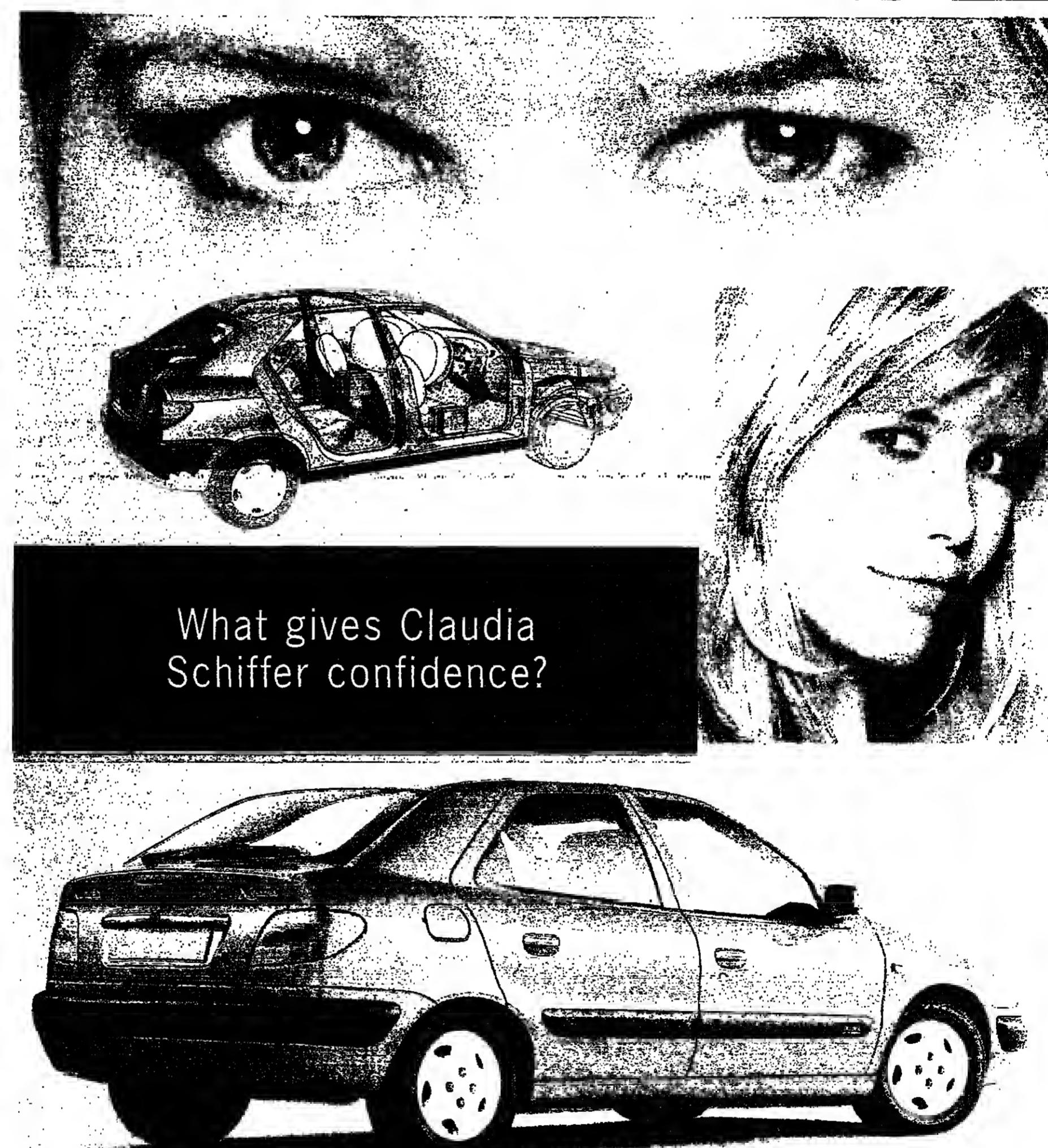
stitute of Child Health in London aims to discover why this group is so vulnerable. Suspicion rests on the changes in lifestyle they experience as students: a wider social life, smoking, drinking, new relationships, and possibly also the stress of exams and being away from home are all seen as possible factors.

A vaccine against Group C meningitis does exist, but it is not very effective. It does not work when given to babies under two, and provides only a few years' protection. That is why it is only used to protect populations at high risk during an outbreak. A better vaccine is on the way, as the result of work by the Public Health Laboratory Service and other British organisations.

Early results are said to be "very encouraging", but are incomplete. The vaccine will not be ready until 2001 or 2002.

Trials are being delayed by the reluctance of mothers to volunteer their children.

Meningococcal bacteria are far from rare. The risk is not of being infected with the bacterium, but of being one of those who proves vulnerable.



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'Someone is not telling the truth. We cannot ascertain what that truth is' says damning report on handling of Sandline affair. Valerie Elliott reports

## MPs condemn 'Yes Minister' contempt

SIR JOHN KERR, the Foreign Office Permanent Secretary, headed a cast of civil servants accused by MPs yesterday of 'Yes Minister'-like contempt over the arms-to-Africa affair.

He was accused of failing in his duty to ministers — one of the most serious criticisms of a civil servant. The damning indictment of officials at every rank dominated the report by the Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee.

It castigated them for failing to brief ministers about alleged sanctions-busting by Sandline International, a firm of military consultants which was supplying arms to help to restore the deposed government of President Kabba.

It criticised them for failing

to give policy statements on future embargos to MPs, officials and public.

- Diplomats to be reminded of constitutional responsibility to ministers and Parliament.
- Ministers to request requests for information from select committees.
- Foreign Affairs Select Committee to have access to intelligence material and MI6 witnesses.

Sierra Leone in defiance of a UN embargo. Sir John was said to have withheld details of a Customs inquiry into Sandline's activities from Rob Cook for four weeks, even after

Customs investigators had cleared the Foreign Office. The MPs said the delays in keeping ministers informed could be seen as buying time to "ensure that officials' backs were covered".

The MPs made clear their anger with the Foreign Secretary's refusal last summer to co-operate with their inquiry while an internal investigation was being carried out by Sir Thomas Legg, a retired senior civil servant. They questioned Legg's findings after uncovering evidence that he had been "misinformed".

MPs were also unhappy with Mr Cook's initial refusal to allow them to inspect top secret papers and with government "obduracy" in refusing MPs a private hearing or a briefing from Sir David Spedding, the head of MI6. However

er, the report cleared ministers of conniving in any plot to allow arms shipments and of misleading Parliament. Tory members of the committee said ministers should share the blame for failures but were voted down by the Labour majority.

Ministers and officials were strongly criticised for their public interpretation of the UN arms embargo. MPs stressed that, had they made clear the embargo applied equally to the Government-in-exile of President Kabba as much as to the military junta, the whole affair could have been avoided.

The report said: "Half-truths are dangerous commodity in which to trade." The

MPs also said that never again should government policy be presented in any way that could mislead Parliament, the public or Foreign Office staff.

The most senior diplomats singled out over "serious errors of judgment" were Richard Dales, director Africa command — who has now been promoted to Ambassador — and Ann Grant, then head of the Africa Department (Equatorial) — who has now been given Mr Dales's old job.

"The way in which no one

had a right to put papers up to ministers — Ms Grant, Mr

Dales or Sir John Kerr — did in fact do so reveals at best political naivety and at worst a 'Yes Minister'-like contempt for civil servants' duties towards their ministers."

MPs were alarmed that Peter Penfold, the High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, believed the arms embargo only applied to the junta. He should have made it his business to check its precise terms.

MPs were also amazed that officials had not recognised the importance of a minute from Mr Penfold which was

"prima facie" evidence that criminal wrongdoing occurred and that the High Commissioner and the department in London might be regarded as "complicit".

But while MPs hailed Mr Penfold's bravery during the conflict, his relations with Sandline were judged "open to criticism". He was berated for failing for six weeks to pass on Sandline's plans to his colleagues in London. Mr Penfold insisted he had attended a meeting in the Foreign Office when he discussed his belief

there was a contract between Sandline and President Kabba.

The MPs state: "Someone is not telling the truth. We cannot ascertain what that truth is."

MPs were incredulous that even though Sir John knew of the Customs inquiry into Sandline for three weeks, Mr Cook only learned about it in a letter from Sandline's solicitors claiming the company had acted with the authority of the Foreign Office. The Permanent Under-Secretary must be

held responsible for this unacceptable situation. It represents a serious failure of communication," the MPs said.

Colonel Tim Spicer of Sandline was also criticised. MPs believe there was no excuse for him not to know the rules about arms sales to Sierra Leone and stated: "If Mr Spicer truly was not aware of the Order in Council then his firm and their advisers are guilty of professional incompetence."

Simon Jenkins, page 16  
Leading article, page 17



Peter Penfold, centre, in Freetown: MPs said the High Commissioner might be seen as complicit in criminal wrongdoing



Spicer: criticised for failing to know rules on arm sales



Kerr: accused of failing in his duty to ministers

Serb to vital for Kosovo peace says Co

## Penfold did talk to London

BY SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

PETER PENFOLD continued to work in war-torn Freetown yesterday, defying death threats from rebel forces.

Intelligence sources said that a "very high price" in terms of money and prestige had been put on the head of the British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, a national hero in the former British colony, where he has to travel with a bodyguard of military police and a small detachment of Royal Marines.

Having returned to Freetown after a second evacuation prompted by a rebel attack on the Sierra Leone capital, Mr Penfold continues to have close contact with the democratic Government of President Kabba.

But the threats to Mr Penfold and British military personnel from rebels hiding in a forest overlooking the British High Commission and his residence mean that he spends his nights aboard HMS Westminster, a frigate stationed offshore which monitors Sierra Leone and offers humanitarian

assistance. Awarded the title of "paramount chief" by the Kabba Government, Mr Penfold's role in the Sandline affair remains murky. The Foreign Affairs Select Committee found that he did not communicate with the Foreign Office for six crucial weeks in late 1997 and early 1998 when he was in Conakry, Guinea, with the exiled Kabba government but investigations by *The Times* have shown that he and other officials with him in Conakry did communicate with London using the German Embassy's secure systems.

The Ministry of Defence, British Intelligence and the Foreign Office all received regular transmissions from Mr Penfold and other officials using a channel the Foreign Office has been reluctant to admit was open to it, claiming it worked in one direction only, from Bonn to Conakry.

Democratic rule remains precarious with continued fighting between west African peacekeepers and the rebels.



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Queen Noor, the widow of King Hussein, receives condolences from one of thousands of mourners at Raghadan Palace in Amman yesterday

## New King courts Iraq

Pledge to improve bilateral ties is considered shrewd move, writes Christopher Walker in Amman

IRAQ announced yesterday that Jordan's untried new ruler, King Abdullah II, is seeking to strengthen ties with Baghdad, sending waves of apprehension through the main Western embassies in Amman, which has become the focal point for opposition to President Saddam Hussein.

In the three weeks since King Hussein switched the succession and appointed the unknown Prince Abdullah, 37, as heir apparent in place of his 51-year-old brother, Hassan — an outspoken critic of the Iraqi regime — America has been striving to ensure that the new ruler would keep his father's strong tilt against Baghdad, including his willingness to permit anti-Saddam groups to operate from Jordan.

Diplomatic sources said this was one of the points emphasised when Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, altered her Middle East itinerary and stopped in Amman to speak privately to Abdullah soon after he was named Crown Prince.

In a surprise development, INA, the official Iraqi news agency, yesterday quoted the

new monarch as having told Taha Mohiddin Maruf, the Iraqi Vice-President, at Monday's funeral that Jordan "wanted to pursue bilateral relations and examine ways of developing them in the interest of two brotherly peoples".

Opposition groups in Jordan have been campaigning for an improvement in Jordan-Iraqi ties. Despite the late King's switch back to a pro-Western, anti-Iraqi stance after the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, sympathy and even affection for Saddam among ordinary Jordanians remains high.

While the West tried last night to assess the significance of the pledge to Baghdad, a senior Arab diplomat said: "For a new King trying to shore up support at home at a time of severe economic hardship, voicing pro-Iraqi sentiments is a very shrewd move."

Before the Gulf crisis, when crippling United Nations sanctions were imposed on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait, Bagh-

dad was one of Jordan's main trading partners.

In the absence of strong representation in Jordan's rubber stamp, 80-member parliament, the main focus for Jordan's opposition groups is the Amman-based Committee for the Lifting of the Embargo on Iraq, which has become a vehicle for drafting a blueprint for political reform due soon to be presented to the new monarch.

A spokeswoman for the group, Toujan Faisal, Jordan's first and only woman MP until she lost her seat in 1997, has a colour photograph of herself standing next to Saddam in one of his sumptuous Baghdad palaces displayed prominently in her salon.

"I put it there as a message to all Jordanian politicians and officials who may visit me here to let them know that I



Women wait to offer their condolences to the Queen

and tens of thousands of Jordanians like me approve of Saddam and support him against attacks by the West," said Mrs Faisal who describes herself as an independent liberal. Even before the death of King Hussein, a gradual thaw in relations between Jordan and Iraq was under way after two crises, one in 1995 and the other last year.

Alongside the diplomatic manoeuvring, Jordan continued its national mourning for its late leader of 47 years yesterday with thousands of ordinary people flocking to offer their condolences to the Royal Family. The men went to one royal palace to greet King Abdullah and women to a separate one where they offered condolences to Queen Noor, the late King's American-born fourth wife, his British-born second wife Princess Muna, the mother of the new King, and his daughters and sisters.

□ **Ramzi Ganu**: Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, hinted last night that his Government could reach a peace agreement with Lebanon and Syria by the end of this year. (AFP)

## Iranian head of security resigns

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU

IN TEHRAN

IRANIANS yesterday cautiously celebrated a victory for President Khatami when the head of the country's hardline intelligence ministry resigned a month after admitting rogue agents were responsible for the murders of several dissident intellectuals and writers.

The departure of Dori Nafabadi was seen as a sign that the moderate Mr Khatami was gaining ground in his battle to enforce the rule of law. Rarely, if ever, have the authorities here accepted responsibility for mistakes.

"The mere fact that a head of a ministry has resigned in this way is a good sign," said Ibrahim Yazdi, the leader of an illegal but tolerated opposition party. "But we still want a public trial of those arrested and their names and positions should be announced."

The spate of grisly kidnappings and killings that terrorised Iran's intellectual community was seen as an attempt by hardliners to undermine support for Mr Khatami, a cleric who saw off the old guard's candidate in a presidential election nearly two years ago.

Despite Mr Khatami's hoge popular mandate, the hardliners maintain an iron grip on the so-called "power ministries" including that of intelligence, the pervasive apparatus that took over from the Shah's feared Savak.

However, the killings, like several other attempts to undermine Mr Khatami, backfired. They provoked a huge popular outcry, including street demonstrations. The country's outspoken press immediately pointed the finger at the intelligence ministry.

Then on January 5 came the announcement from the ministry itself that "renegade, irresponsible and misguided colleagues" were responsible for the murders and had been arrested. An agent confessed that his group was responsible for the deaths of 60 dissidents at home and abroad.

The killings began last November when Darish Farouhar, the leader of a small opposition party, and his wife, Parvaneh, were stabbed to death in their home.

Near the bodies of two writers, Mohammed Mokhtari and Mohammed Pouyanbeh, were found strangled by the side of the road.

### WORLD IN BRIEF

## Anwar's accuser retracts testimony

Kuala Lumpur: Another of Anwar Ibrahim's accusers renounced his evidence in a sworn statement yesterday and disappeared from view after apparently escaping from police custody (David Watts writes). Endrik Mior, 32, a dress designer for Mr Anwar's wife, Azizah, said in the statement that he had been forced by police to say he had been sodomised by Mr Anwar, the former Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister.

He added that he had been stripped naked, tortured and made to simulate sex acts while in police custody for the past four months. Mr Mior is the third of Mr Anwar's alleged sodomy victims to renounce his evidence to the police. A fourth has made differing allegations and the whereabouts of a fifth is unknown.

Before the Gulf crisis, when crippling United Nations sanctions were imposed on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait, Bagh-

dad was one of Jordan's main trading partners.

In the absence of strong representation in Jordan's rubber stamp, 80-member parliament, the main focus for Jordan's opposition groups is the Amman-based Committee for the Lifting of the Embargo on Iraq, which has become a vehicle for drafting a blueprint for political reform due soon to be presented to the new monarch.

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# In death as in life – a minimum of fuss

A quiet exit like Iris Murdoch's is the trend, says Vanora Bennett

**I**t was typical of the modest Iris Murdoch that on her death she didn't want any fuss. No grand funeral or aggrandising memorial service. A philosopher, an intellectual, an acclaimed novelist, she had no doubt considered the manner of her passing carefully and decided that she would like to go quietly.

Of course, it would amuse Dame Iris, who died on Monday, that in choosing to depart with minimal attention, she was at the vanguard of a modern movement. If death can be minimised – and what could be more so? – then the taste for dying without the traditional displays of pomp, piety and religious respect is gaining currency.

The playwright Robert Bolt, who died in 1995, was buried at the bottom of the garden of the 11th-century house he shared with his actress wife Sarah Miles. "He didn't want to be embalmed, wanted to be buried in the garden and wanted us all to drink champagne," she recalled afterwards.

Nicholas Albery, the editor of *The Natural Death Handbook*, has specified in his will that he wants to be buried on a piece of farmland that he and his wife were given as a wedding present. There will be no coffin; he wishes to be wrapped in a sheet and buried beneath a newly planted apple tree.

The Natural Death Centre has information on woodland burial sites – about 85 exist, run by farmers and local authorities, where graves costing between £300 and £800 are marked only with a tree or a simple wooden plaque – burials at sea (about 20 take place every year) and garden burials. Those prepared to meet their maker without an oak casket can choose between cardboard and paper-mache coffins, costing between £50 and £170, woven willow alternatives (£120) or woollen burial shrouds (£124).

Even some Church of England clergymen are exploring the unconventional. The diocesan syndicate of Ely, in Cambridgeshire, last year approved a plan to set up its own 40-acre woodland burial site. The Rev Peter Owen Jones, one of the scheme's supporters, says: "We want to move away from the



Iris Murdoch, who died on Monday after a long battle with Alzheimer's, and her husband John Bayley

Victorian melodrama of burial."

Few legal barriers exist; no planning permission is needed for garden burials, nor advance sanction from environmental health officers. There is no blueprint for such an informal burial; relatives make their own arrangements.

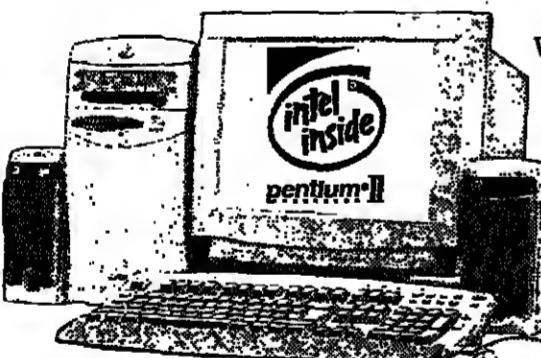
But, the Centre adds, problems can arise. The Ministry of Agriculture has produced a minefield of guidelines to discourage burial at sea. A garden burial can "cause dissension if not all members of the family are in favour, or reduce

the property's value". And it is vital to remember that funerals are as much for the living as for the dead. Offering survivors the emotional comfort of a parting that they can remember without discomfort – rather than veering too far into the trendy – is a main function of a funeral.

"It should be a meaningful and fitting way to pay tribute to a life ended, so that afterwards the nearest and dearest can look back and feel they said farewell to their loved one in a sensitive and dignified way," says Dominic Maguire, the president of the National Association of Funeral Directors.

For Thomas Lynch, an undertaker and the author of a study on death, worries about form, money and display are simply displacement activities to hide from grief: "We believe we can control our feelings by laughing at undertakers – whistling past the graveyard – and paying attention to the numbers, but that's not what it's about. We have to face the fact that if you love, you grieve."

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## I stand, she delivers

**F**riday: 2.30am. Staggering under the weight of two kibags and a backpack stuffed with tiny outfits, we arrive at St Luke's-Roosevelt hospital to have a baby. We take the lift to the 12th floor, where we are ushered into a tiny "observation" cubicle with a gurney bed, sink bin and chair. A nurse straps monitors to Joanna to measure her contractions and the foetal heartbeat, then leaves us. The contractions are coming fast and hard and Joanna is complaining of acute back pain.

"I'm going to throw up again!" she gasps. I look around for a receptacle. I help her to the sink, patting her heaving shoulders as she hugs the cold porcelain and retches violently.

"Why are you throwing up in the sink?" demands the nurse crossly from the doorway.

"The bin," she says with a scowl.

We are not here to argue about where to vomit.

Joanna has jettisoned all thoughts of using the birthing centre and having a "natural" drug-free labour. She pleads for an epidural as we wait for our obstetrician to drive from the suburbs. She looks away at the grumpy nurse stretches a tourniquet around her arm and inserts an IV needle into a bulging vein. The needle pops out. The nurse tries again. And again. Each time the needle slips out, leaving a crimson blotch of blood on the white linen.

"Your veins – no good," the nurse complains and wanders off. She returns with a green-smocked Russian, whom I overhear scolding her for using the wrong needles. He manages first time.

**F**riday: 3am. In the delivery room. An elegant Chinese anaesthetist inserts a catheter into Joanna's spine and feeds in liquid numbness. Joanna almost weeps with gratitude as the pain seeps away.

She is suffering from "back labour"; with the baby's head in a posterior position. The doctor decides to go in with an instrument like a flattened crochet hook "to break the waters". Luckily, Joanna cannot see it.

Now she is rigged up to a web of technological tendril wires to the monitors and tubes to a drip that dispenses a labour-inducing drug and saline to keep her blood pressure up. One by one we are conceding to childbirth in class, all the things we were urged to resist in birthing class, all the gadgetry and poisons of a "medicated" birth.

**F**riday: 1.30pm. Joanna has been pushing for two hours while I count each push, feeding her crushed ice in between, muttering reassurances. But I get things slightly wrong. I grip her hand too hard. My lower-back massage eludes the hot spot. I am devoid of the power to appeal. I am a man in the delivery room. I revert to the hunter-gatherer default and go off foraging for sustenance. When I return, bearing Starbucks coffee, I find there has been progress.

"You're so close," says the doctor. "Can you see the baby's head?" she asks me. And there is the top of our baby's head, covered in a fuzz of oily blond hair.

"It's time for an internal baby heart monitor," she adds. From her quiver of medieval torture tools she produces an instrument shaped like a long knitting



*The other half*  
of  
**JOANNA COLES**

The doctor has the vacuum cap leeched on to the sandy dome of the baby's head and on the next contraction she really heaves like an old-fashioned dentist pulling at a deep-rooted molar. But, unbelievably, the head remains lodged. All eyes swirl back to the monitors, where the vital signs blink wildly like Wall Street stock prices on a volatile trading day. "Episiotomy," she says. It is a bald statement of fact, not a subject for discussion. She snatches up a pair of scissors. The blades scintillate in the beam of the lowered spotlight. I look away. But above the beeping of the monitors and the roar of the air-conditioning, I hear two loud snips. I look back to see the doctor tossing the scissors on to the tray, and at the next contraction she takes up her grip on the handle of the vacuum, assuming a tug-of-war stance with her shoulders.

I am appalled by the violence being directed towards this unborn baby, terrified that its little neck will simply snap with the force of it all. I am about to plead for a "C" section myself when suddenly the doctor staggers back and the baby shoots out – head, arms, torso, legs – like a long, bloody link of sausages, and immediately the room is filled with the instantly recognisable cry of the newborn.

"It's a boy," says the doctor and lifts the baby, still tethered like a tiny moonwalker by his umbilical cord.

PETER GODWIN

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# The next big bang: explosive the size of salt grains

The creation of N<sub>5</sub>, an atomic freak of nature, has stunned the world of chemistry. Nicholas Booth reports

There are two sorts of explosion in chemistry — predictable ones and those that are entirely unexpected. To hear Karl Christie describe the events of one day last November, the explosion that destroyed part of his apparatus came as no surprise. "We knew what we were looking for," he says with a studied nonchalance. "We knew it would be very unstable and spectacular."

The "it" in question has the normally staid world of inorganic chemistry agog. For Dr Christie's research team, working for the US Air Force, has formed an atomic freak of nature and one of the most surprisingly explosive substances ever created.

Known as "Nitrogen 5" (N<sub>5</sub>), many chemists doubted this form of polynitrogen could ever exist, let alone be created in a laboratory. And yet when it was synthesised in the form of a few grains of salt, the effects were quite spectacular.

"I was quite relieved when it blew up," Dr Christie says. "If you expect something to be that energetic, you're going to have to deliver." Although he is at pains to point out that his work is purely fundamental research, it does promise hitherto unexpected advances in rocket propellants and explosives.

Dr Christie was the leader of a team of 15 chemists, who created this man-made form of nitrogen.



Henry Cavendish

Normally regarded as one of the more staid and boring of elements, nitrogen is the invisible gas that forms four fifths of our atmosphere. Gaseous nitrogen comprises two atoms joined together as N<sub>2</sub>, which is stable and unreactive. It was first isolated in 1772 by, among others, the British scientist Henry Cavendish. Yet its stability makes it useful as a potential explosive: when some of its electrons are stripped, the positively charged fragments (ions) will go to any lengths, even violent ones, to regain stability.

A second form of nitrogen was found in the 1890s in the form of azides or N<sub>3</sub>, which temporarily binds three nitrogen atoms together.

Azides are so unstable that they usually have to be kept in a crystalline form.

The lattice structure imprisons each azide so that it cannot come into contact with its neighbour — an explosion results if contact occurs.

A common form is the sodium azide that is found inside the airbags of cars. It is used to generate nitrogen rapidly. When a car undergoes a severe impact, the nitrogen ions come into contact and release the gas remarkably quickly.

The third form created by Dr Christie is more unstable still. N<sub>5</sub> consists of five nitrogen atoms bonded in a V-shape. Essentially, his team have pulled a rabbit out of a hat: binding more than three



We have lift off: the newly-created substance N<sub>5</sub>, part an initiative by the US Air Force to look into highly energetic materials, could be used for more efficient rocket fuel

nitrogen atoms together was believed to be impossible. When Dr Christie presented his findings to the American Chemical Society last month, the audience were stunned and not because of the explosion.

Dr Christie's work is part of an initiative by the US Air Force to look into highly energetic materials, which could be used for making more efficient rocket fuel. His work is carried out at the Edwards Air Force Base, a vast dry lake in California's Mojave Desert, most familiar as the landing site for the space shuttle and famous as the home of the "right stuff" test pilots.

Although spectacular, all rocket launches are frustrating to their designers. Even the most powerful propellants have a performance ceiling that limits their efficiency. For every ton of equipment hoisted aloft — be it scientific equipment into orbit or a warhead beyond en-

emy lines — five tons of fuel are needed. This ratio is immutable with conventional rocket chemistry and Dr Christie's team in the Edwards Propulsion Directorate may have found a way around it.

It took four months to synthesise a stable form of the molecular fragment by combining gaseous nitrogen with a negatively charged mixture of arsenic and fluorine.

The result was a few grains of a solid compound that, says Dr Christie, looks like table salt. "Except that if you put it in a salt cellar you'd soon know about it," he adds.

Its explosiveness comes from the way in which the positively charged molecular fragment latches on to its nearby brethren. Natural forms of nitrogen have attained, the chemical equivalent of Zen, the lowest energy state, where it remains unreactive and stable.

What Dr Christie has done is to break a barrier in energy terms. He uses the analogy of a river. "Water doesn't run uphill," he says. "You can make it go up a hill, but you have to put some energy in. Chemically speaking, we have kicked this form of nitrogen up the hill."

He uses the analogy of a river. "Water doesn't run uphill," he says. "You can make it go up a hill, but you have to put some energy in. Chemically speaking, we have kicked this form of nitrogen up the hill."

Dr Christie is particularly proud that they got it right first time. The research chemistry of today no longer uses just test tubes and blind faith, but rather expensive and complex equipment that takes up whole laboratories. Dr Christie's work has to be carried out in a vacuum, with tubes fashioned from stainless steel and Teflon, and complicated spectrometers which look for the tell-tale signs of unusual molecules on an infinitesimal scale...

Very little was left to chance. The use of supercomputers means that

the innumerable permutations of chemical combinations can be predicted on screen. "We can predict whether the material is stable and if it exists, minimise the processes needed to create it," he says.

Yet actually to create new molecular fragments is more an art than an exact science. The results still lie with "intuition and instinct"; for others have failed to create any new forms of nitrogen. Dr Christie has scored some notable successes. In 1986 he succeeded in separating pure fluorine from a compound by chemical means rather than using vast amounts of energy. "I've had a pretty good batting average," Dr Christie adds.

Another surprise is that they have been able to create N<sub>5</sub> on a microscopic scale and not just as a handful of molecules. In November, they produced about 100 milligrams, but now they could create

half a gram. Because of its instability, they have to keep it cold and pack it within dry ice at a temperature of -80°C. Even so, they are taking no chances: the ampoules, which contain the new form of nitrogen, are made of Teflon.

In the annals of inorganic chemistry, Dr Christie has produced a wonder stuff that some believe may be too unstable to use. But if it could be kept stable and manufactured it would be an ideal fuel for the upper stages of rockets and missiles.

He refuses to be drawn, merely saying he has no idea what it might lead to. "Scientifically, it is very spectacular," he says. "But if you want sure bets, go to Las Vegas. I can't predict what will come out of this world."

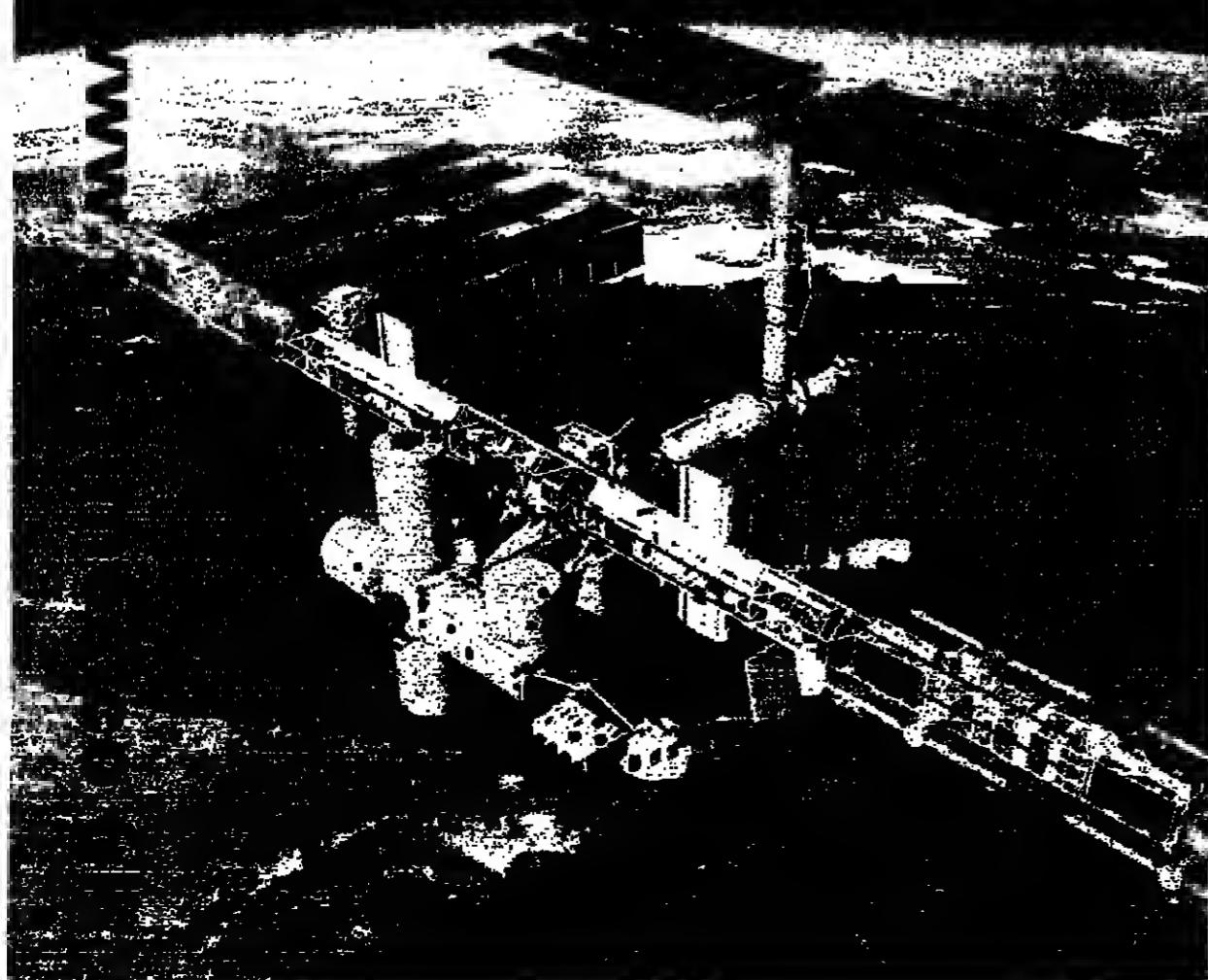
You don't have to be a rocket scientist to realise that the field of polynitrogen chemistry may surprise us yet.

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□ Heart disease □ Solar breakthrough □ Pecking order

## A bug in the heart

THE evidence linking heart disease to a common bug is growing. The idea is appealing because it would help to clarify the causes of a disease too often blamed on its victims' behaviour.

No doubt diet, smoking, obesity, genetic predisposition and lack of exercise have an influence, but they do not explain the third or so of victims who have no such risk factors.

The latest piece of evidence, published in last week's *Journal of the American Medical Association*, drew on just such a group: 3,315 British patients who had had a heart attack, despite having no known risk factors. NHS medical records enabled any drugs they had been prescribed to be compared with those given to a control group of 13,139 patients who were matched in other respects but had not suffered a heart attack.

One difference emerged, according to Dr Herschel Jick of Boston University. Those who had heart attacks were much less likely to have been treated within the previous three years with two types of antibiotics — tetracyclines or quinolones. Other antibiotics — penicillins, macrolides, sulphonamides and cephalosporins — showed no such effect.

The striking thing is that this points to *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, a bacterium that has already been fingered in the search for an infectious cause of heart disease. The bug attacks the lungs and can cause pneumonia, although most people who carry it suffer no apparent effects. *Chlamydia* is sensitive to tetracyclines and quinolones, less so to other antibiotics. So the suggestion is that taking these antibiotics for other reasons can kill off the *Chlamydia* in-

fection and protect against heart disease. The findings are consistent with results published 18 months ago by Dr Sandeep Gupta, of St George's Hospital Medical School in London. He found that in heart attack survivors, the chances of having another attack depended on the number of *Chlamydia* antibodies found in their systems. Those with the highest levels — indicating infection with the bug — had four times the chance of repeat heart attacks than those with the lowest. If they had been given antibiotics, however, the risk went down.

How much more evidence is needed before heart attack survivors, at least, are routinely given a course of antibiotics? Doctors who have spent the past 20 years urging heart patients to heal themselves seem surprisingly reluctant to take back the responsibility. There are sound reasons for this: the evidence falls some way short of proof, and the routine consumption of antibiotics by millions of people risks the development of drug resistance. The American Heart Association responded to the study by saying it is "much too early to consider prescribing antibiotics to people at risk for heart attack". But individuals may well disagree.

A new trial to be launched next month in the United States could help. The plan is to recruit 4,000 people at 26 medical centres, assign them at random to one antibiotic or placebo tablet a week, then follow them for heart symptoms for three years. Dr Ward Kennedy, of the University of Washington in Seattle, believes that the chance of antibiotic-resistant bacteria emerging is small. "We think it's worth the risk," he says, "because the question is so important."

## Power of the pecking order

SOME behaviour, such as yawning, seems to be catching. Once one person starts, everybody else joins in. Two ecologists from Rutgers University in New York have found that this also applies to the common tern. Among colonies of the birds in a salt marsh in Manahawkin Bay in New Jersey, the amount of preening that goes on depends on the number of birds present. When more than two or three

are gathered together, preening increases, report Brian Paisley and Joanna Burger in *Animal Behaviour*. One bird starts and the rest follow, like teenage girls perfecting their lipstick at a disco.

On one occasion, five terns were sitting quietly until one started preening. Within two minutes, four of them were at it, and the odd one out was the only bird looking in the other direction. The date, time of day or the weather could not explain this pattern.

Preening serves various purposes, including ridding the birds of parasites. But explaining why it should be socially triggered is tricky.

Perhaps, the two ecologists wonder, it is because living in colonies increases the rate of infestation by parasites, so

that increased preening among social birds is needed to control them. But it could also have something to do with the pecking order, subordinate birds taking their cue from those at the top.

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# Surprise him with a smile



Couples need to learn new skills, says John Gray, the author of *Men are from Venus, Women are from Mars*

The dynamics of the relationships between men and women have changed more in the past 35 years than in the 900 years that preceded it. The emergence of the two-career family, coupled with the advent of the birth control pill, are the two most apparent factors for this rapid change.

For centuries, men and women existed in different spheres. Men assumed the role of provider and protector, working for the most part out of the home. Husbands felt that wives did not expect them to be sensitive; they were the breadwinners, and skills in this area brought them the appreciation that all men so enjoy. Adults who are 35 or older remember that when their fathers returned from work, they were not to be disturbed.

For women, it was the reverse: her domain was home and hearth. Traditionally, her problems and those of the children, took a back seat to his more worldly concerns. Women quickly learnt that there was a right place and right time to talk to him.

The women of today are daughters of mothers who could not teach them how to share their feelings in a way that did not make men defensive, or how to seek support so that a man would respond positively. Most women of previous generations did not understand how to nurture a man without mothering him, or how to accommodate his wishes without sacrificing



Many of the men of previous generations did not understand the importance of monogamy and making a woman feel special

their own. How could that generation have prepared the women of today for a world that few of us imagined 30 or more years ago? These mothers could not teach their daughters how to be both feminine and powerful at work and at home.

In a similar fashion, men today have no role models for leading and directing the family in a way that respects and includes their partners' points of view. Fathers could not teach their sons how to communi-

nicate with a woman without giving in or arguing. They found it difficult to remain strong while providing their partners with emotional support.

Many of the men of previous generations did not understand the importance of monogamy and making a woman feel special. Our fathers did not understand how truly to give the empathy and sympathy required by women. They did not know how to do the little things that fulfil

a woman. Simply put, our parents couldn't teach us the advanced communication skills necessary to make relationships thrive in a world where men and women have been put on an equal basis. These changing times, when both spouses are out pursuing a profession or simply a better standard of living, demand that we open our hearts and minds to the process of change — both at home and at work. Ultimately, this process will make the

world a better place. I very much believe that the reason my book *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus* has become such a success is because of this very simple message: men and women speak different languages and, with better communication skills, they can maintain a happier and more fulfilling relationship. Minus these skills, married couples too often find that their communication leads to resentment; and when resentment moves

in, romance moves out. Of the approximately 1,000 letters that I receive each month, many express amazement that the simple communication techniques featured in my books have turned their relationships around. Here I will focus on just two such techniques, one for her and one for him.

For her: learn the right way in which to enliven your loved one's support. Women find themselves in a modern world with many demands that bring out their "male" sides. They spend the day communicating with men without being able to express their feelings in a free and open fashion. Now more than ever it is important for women to have the opportunity to reconnect with their feminine sides when they are at home. If a woman is not afforded this need, this suppression will become a source of growing frustration. For a woman to gain her partner's understanding about this, she should simply say: "I just need to talk about my feelings in order to feel better. You don't have to say anything or do anything."

For him: learn how to listen when your partner is upset without getting upset yourself. This is an important skill that allows a man to give a woman what she needs most: emotional support. She wants to have her feelings heard, not fixed. This is not as easy for him to accomplish as a woman might suspect. Unfortunately, when a man hears a problem, he morphs into a Mr Fix-it. Instead, he must suppress his instinct to rush in with a solution. His Mr Fix-it tendencies are heard by her as an attempt to invalidate her point of view, and cause her frustration level to escalate.

Men instinctively want a woman with a smile. When that smile is not forthcoming, most men see it as either their fault or their duty to replace it. Women, just like their male counterparts, can come home from the workplace with a variety of frustrations. Men must remember that what she is saying is not meant directly to criticise you. Those frustrations often have nothing to do with their mates. At times like this, it is vital for a man to be skilled in the art of listening so that he can give her what she wants most: an ear to hear her.

When a woman is upset, timing is essential in offering solutions. When a woman feels secure enough to share her feelings with the man she loves, and he can listen without being wounded, their relationship is far better prepared to survive and thrive in these changing times.

• John Gray's new book, *How to Get What You Want and Want What You Have*, will be published by Vermilion on March 11, £9.99.

• John Gray will give a lecture, *Mars and Venus in London*, at the Peacock Theatre, Kingsway, London WC2 at 7.30pm on March 26. Tel 08700 715 715 for details

## Only a super bottom will do

The girl of my dreams has her own agenda, says Tim Southwell

make specific requests of our own.

It's not that we don't care what women want, it's just that we're so painfully aware of our own shortcomings that it's easier for us to identify the things that make us tick and protect our own boundaries of happiness. Consequently,

over the years we have developed several "no go" areas for ourselves which, if crossed, set alarm bells ringing. Comments such as "You're not watching the football round my house", "You should start reading Men's Health" and "I just don't think Laurel and Hardy are funny" tend to

make a man feel uneasy. We don't want someone interfering with the crucial elements of our character that bring peace in this crazy ever-changing world.

What men really want from women is for them to have their own career — there's nothing more sexy than a woman with her own agenda — but also find time to have children, raise them at home, listen to our banal ramblings about work when we get back, put the kids to bed while we watch the football and then slip into something comfortable yet wildly erotic.

See, men want everything there is to be had. We want filthy, unpredictable, passionate sex, coupled with the comfort of a clean, predictable, calm relationship. But we don't want a woman who sits at home waiting for us to validate her existence.

We want women to have their own friends and interests so that we have to compete for their time — so long as we like their friends, and their interests don't lumber us with the type of responsibility that could interfere with our own interests or quest for an easy life.

We want someone who will dress like Grace Kelly at dinner parties, Monica out of Friends around the house, and Kathy Lloyd in the bedroom. We want someone who will tell us to shut up when we're harping on aimlessly, yet share a concrete belief in what we do and who we are. And we also want someone who understands that just because we have a favourite All Saint (Melanie Blatt, as you ask), it doesn't mean that we love them any less.

I like nothing better after a hard day at the office than coming home, changing baby son Alfie's nappy and talking gibberish to the poor chap for half an hour. But I don't want to do this every night. Some nights I want to go out for dinner with my girlfriend. And some nights I want to go out with my pals, get drunk, talk football — and pretend to have a glad eye for the ladies. And I want my girlfriend to support me all the way.

Well, you did ask.



Baby talk: Tim and son Alfie

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05/12/99-HW

# Counting the cost of Monica

The Lewinsky affair leaves victims tarnished but honours even

**W**ith just two days to go — maybe only a day — until the formal end of the impeachment trial of President Clinton, we can already see the shape of the landscape scoured out by the year-long deluge of the Lewinsky saga.

An astounding year in American politics has left as many losers as winners. Most of all, there are scores of plain victims, with privacy and family finances now shattered.

At the head of the ragged tribe of winners is Mr Clinton himself. Even if the Senate censures him, and even if the special prosecutor Kenneth Starr then indicts him, we might as well say that Mr Clinton has emerged victorious.

The drama produced three climactic moments when it seemed that he had only days left: when the story first broke in January last year; when he admitted an "inappropriate relationship" with Monica Lewinsky on videotape on August 17; and in the run-up to the November 3 elections, when congressional Democrats appeared to be fleeing the sinking ship. He survived them all.

So has his wife. In fact, she has prospered. For now, her closest colleagues content themselves with murmuring "she'll wait for the world to come to her" after leaving the White House. But as that date approaches, she may well feel that a bid for a New York Senate seat is the most attractive step towards a new future.

Monica herself will probably be all right, we can hope, after this week's videotapes of her testimony. Poised and low-voiced, four years and a world away from the panicking Beverly Hills girl on the Linda Tripp tapes, she chided House Republicans for fishing for "salacious" details: "I wish you wouldn't use that word — you're talking about my relationship," she said, even at this late stage in the saga adding to its list of deathless quotes. Her own voice does her enough credit to suggest that Andrew Morton's soon-to-be released account of her life should not be an embarrassment. Even for Monica, it seems, there may be life after Lewinsky.

On the principle that in politics, any publicity is good publicity, a dozen previously invisible characters perhaps should also be called winners. In the common imagination, Kenneth Starr will be preserved for ever, smiling glassily as he puts out his dustbins, or resting his flask of coffee on his car roof while he hangs up his jacket in the back seat. The white-haired, black-suited bulk of Henry Hyde will for ever be snooped over the Senate lectern, gripping it as if carrying tablets of stone.

Democrats in Congress are also winners. The question is whether they can seize the true prize and regain the House of Representatives in the year 2000 elections. That dream, which still seemed elusive after the mid-term elections, has seemed achievable since Mr Clinton's State of the Union speech last month. Richard Gephardt, leader of the Democratic minority, is



Bronwen Maddox

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I may never again raise my fedora as I pass Buck House, nor, at some formal dinner-table, wait respectfully until the loyal toast before lighting up

If this morning, I tell you that my heart aches and a drowsy numbness pains my sense, you will probably nod smugly, knowing my little ways. and say, yes, there we go, he has been overdosing on nicotine again, he has been up half the night smoking, he has only himself to blame, he will get no sympathy from us, it is a filthy habit, look at his fingers, sniff his hair, check his ceiling, clock his clothes.

But while you would be unarguably right on all counts, you would still not have got anywhere near the nub of this particular aching numbness, since it is both different from the manna-like norm, and immeasurably worse; for while I have indeed been up half the night smoking, that is because I have been up half the night worrying about smoking. More particular-

ly, about the serious effect smoking might henceforth have on me, for what really aches my heart and numbs my sense is this fateful morning is that, after six unfalteringly loyal decades, I may never again rise to my feet for the national anthem, never again put folding money on this royal flag or that against the odds, never again raise my fedora as I pass Buck House, never again, at some formal dinner-table, wait respectfully until the loyal toast before lighting up, nor, at some more contentious one, ask a repubican to step outside and repeat that. For although the monarchy has not merely a lifelong habit with me but also a pleasure, a support, and a solace, I am now seriously thinking of giving it up.

That is because, in the shattering decision she just took to



## Fire, film — and forget

**W**ho would be a New Labour diplomat? You have a Prime Minister desperate to outdazzle Gordon Brown. You are told to bear any burden, crash any summit, book any jet, bomb any foe. In the cause of new Labour, you have to take orders from Alastair Campbell and Jonathan Powell. To cap it all you have to "lie abroad for your country" — ethically.

The saga may also have hurt Vice-President Al Gore's chances of reaching the White House. True, the main impediment to Mr Gore's hopes remains himself. His stiffness, despite all the resources available to him, is one of those mysteries of public life. But the Lewinsky affair has made his task more difficult.

As long as the President was struggling for survival, it was hard for Mr Gore to distance himself. At a time when he should be grabbing the stage from Mr Clinton, and making speeches on the economy, on Russia and Jordan, Mr Gore has allowed his boss to continue to hog the limelight. There is a growing Washington murmur that the scandal may also have deterred savvy operators from joining the Gore camp: the lack of enough first-rate, experienced people on the prospective campaign team is conspicuous, and a luxury he cannot afford much longer.

Most sympathy should go to the scores of people dragged into the investigation. They have been forced to run up legal bills of hundreds of thousands of dollars on the chance they might contradict the half-memories of some other bit player.

The investigation by Mr Starr and Congress has cost taxpayers, on estimates, between \$40 million and \$50 million. It would not be surprising if it had generated equal lawyers' fees for those testifying or defending themselves: the Clintons' legal bills alone may eventually approach \$10 million.

It is that spectacle of waste and misery which leaves such a sour taste. But on a purely political scoresheet, there is a chance the saga will have prompted a neat reversal, helping to put Democrats back in control of the House of Representatives — and a Republican in the White House. In that case, each side might call it a draw.

History is awash in messages for want of which an empire is lost. Nobody should deride process and

No foreign field is so far that the control freaks of new Labour would not have their flag fluttering over it

accountability. The woes detailed in the report are indeed woes, though hardly more woeful than revealed in last year's Legg report into the same affair. But no empire fell over Mr Penfold's missed message. As the report says, United Nations arms sanctions are a shambles. Mr Penfold's collusion with the mercenaries was naive, but given the outcome he might have expected the spin-doctors to handle it. When Nelson said at Copenhagen "I really do not see the signal", all England cheered.

Those who recall Mr Cook's juvenile hysteria on the pavement outside the Scott inquiry must smile at his discomfiture yesterday. How he used to deride the Foreign Office defence behind which he now takes refuge. His attack on the report for using "the colourful language of political knockout" is rich. Even richer was Downing Street's contribution.

None of this is of concern to the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee. Its report is chiefly worried that somewhere within the glorious edifice of the Foreign Office, wires were crossed. Messages had been sent by post not telephone. Calls had been missed. Even worse, ministers had been baldly briefed. An offence had been committed against the golden British art of administration.

The committee chairman, Donald Anderson, repeated the cliché about the Foreign Office Rolls-Royce looking more like an old banger. Somehow we had not played cricket in Sierra Leone. Chaps had not behaved like chaps. As punishment, heaven help us, management consultants should be summoned. Meanwhile, back in Sierra Leone the holocaust continued.

The proper question for a select committee is, what on earth were we doing meddling in Sierra Leone? How much of the blood now being shed in that miserable country is on Britain's hands? If there was a good reason for doing what we did, what

is it? To all such questions, the report replies: "The committee's report does not deal with these wider matters." Its job is only to "examine the administration of the FCO and of reporting to the House". Who told it to do that? The Government Whips' Office? That is the job that could be left to consultants.

The Sierra Leone operation was full of lessons to which Parliament and the public should be alerted. Arms embargoes, root cause of the present row, are stupid if they fail to distinguish good guys from bad. The report draws attention to this but not to the wider of questions of sanctions effectiveness. It deplores collusion with mercenaries. But mercenary activity has long underpinned British policy in the Gulf. Military adventures of the sort approved by Mr Penfold are always risky and often reckless. At least in Sierra Leone

action was left to the private sector. If Britain now intends to plunge into civil wars across the globe we shall need mercenaries, or we shall run out of soldiers. Like a Renaissance prince, Mr Blair appears to want his flag fluttering over every battlefield. *Sandline International* and its ilk will have to be his condottieri.

When arms-for-Africa broke into a "scandal" last year, we hoped it might diminish the Government's enthusiasm for such casual incursions into other people's civil wars. Cool Britannia might stay at home awhile and cultivate its garden. Perhaps other parts of the world might be left to sort out their troubles, and we might concentrate on ours. But no. Mr Blair and Mr Cook are now serial meddlers. They cannot resist trying to control. It is as if every foreign state were about to vote Ken Livingstone as mayor. The latest issue of the Blairite

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The latest issue of the Blairite

journal *Renewal* analyses the Government's Third Way foreign policy in the most interventionist terms. Edmund Cairns (though it could be Mr Cook) writes as follows: "Britain cannot have an effective security policy without a holistic approach which fights global exclusion . . . complemented by a defence strategy that is capable and willing to protect civilians in the midst of conflicts." Mr Cairns does not say "which civilians or what sort of conflicts". This is naked imperialism.

In pursuit of this garbed objective, Mr Cook now has economic sanctions of varying degrees of severity against half the world's poorest nations. He has bombing threats outstanding against Saddam Hussein and Slobodan Milosevic. He is "actively involved" in the future of Palestine. He has sent a minister to parley with the Taliban militia in Afghanistan. Since he has presumably squeezed Sierra Leone, will this be one of MacIntryre's disclosures? "I've made it a rule not to talk about the book," he says.

## Smart move

PETER MANDELSON may not have to depart his beloved Notting Hill as swiftly as I predicted. Quietly, Mandy has helped to raise £500,000 for roofless sorts to stay in a hostel in the trendy cardboard box-less London enclave. The dash, enough to pay back Geoffrey Robinson, will buy a refuge.

The repentant soul added weight to the campaign along with chums Elle Macpherson (below left) and Ruby Wax (right) as well as Lady Powell and Ruth Rendell. Among the spartan centre's attractions are the trained staff who will "give advice on housing and job openings". Save a bed for Peter.

MEANWHILE, Peter's bedtime arrangements are coming under scrutiny again. And we might now learn why Jeremy Paxman felt so guilty after Mandelson was "outed" on Newsnight that he dropped round a letter of apology. Punch says that Donald Macintyre, Mandelson's approved biographer, will report that Paxman enjoyed dinner with Mandelson's close friend Reinaldo Alva da Silva. The jolly affair is said to have taken place at Robert Harris's county home. So



will this be one of Macintyre's disclosures? "I've made it a rule not to talk about the book," he says.

## Written off

BEFORE she died, Iris Murdoch destroyed five of her novels that she deemed unfit for publication.

The early works were beginning to interest publishers, so Dame Iris tipped them up 30 years after writing them. They showed a strong intellectual grip. Peter Conradi, writing her biography, tells me: "She was a good judge. From the remains I read, she was right."

After destroying one book and tossing it in the bin, Murdoch peered down and remarked that for the first time it looked quite good. Later she rallied, and watched with relief as it was taken by dustmen.

HANDBAG wars at the Tory Winter Ball, where Sir Rocco Porta and Wafic Said indulged in a spot of competitive tendering for a signed handbag of Baroness Thatcher. The hotelier pulled out of the auction just before his fellow swank bid £12,500. "Wafic has a lot more firepower than me," Sir Rocco tells me. "It would have been fun but I am a lot better off now."

## Smoked out

AN ATTEMPT to exploit the good name of Lord Charles Spencer-Churchill in aid of a planned cigar



bar in Mayfair has backfired. While applying for a licence, the developers suggested that the Duke of Marlborough's brother had lent his support. But Lord Charles let the planning people know that he was not involved. The council then refused to give permission.

TOILERS at Cartier have found the answer to Robin-hoods: wrapping watches in Harrods bags. I hear: "They look like cheap knick-knacks bought by the provincial coach party brigade."

## Good heavens

A ROCKET for the Roman Catholic Church from Sir Elton John. The theological thinker and his chum David Furnish are to make a movie of a book the church labelled "shocking and deplorable". In God's Name alleges Pope John Paul II was murdered by the Mafia. Furnish insists that the couple's interest is purely artistic: "It has a case well argued." An argument unlikely to impress John Paul II.

JASPER GERARD

Alan Coren



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mind awfully... what did any of this matter when, back on the lonely pavement, I could slip from my coat-pocket a pack of Silk Cut whose titchy golden escutcheon would catch the moonlight. Iron and unicorn rampant to assure me that what I was about to ignite had been personally appointed by my sovereign lady? Not smoke? Dear God, it seemed an act of treason to abstain!

More yet, my gratitude for this approval led me to honour all the rest of her endorsements. While other anxious shoppers trotted the supermarket aisles, squinting at e-numbers, additives, fat contents, mineral deposits, national provenances, political ritudes, to short-hop nightmares or even dear friends said would you withdraw the royal warrant from cigarette manufacturers, the Queen — no, make that the queen; if I have not yet given up, at least let me cut down — has turned her back on me.

And what makes that rejection more bitter yet is that it was none other than she who had always sustained me against the manifold rejections of all the rest: what did I care if theatres and cinemas barred their doors against me, or cabbies threw me out, or doctors struck me off, or public transport belittled its name or chic restaurants directed me to the ranky chip-shops opposite, or airlines reduced my transglobal dreams to short-hop nightmares or even dear friends said would you

and threats. I have never sought any signal but one. Enter my larder and you will find only her gracious marmalade, her regal fish-paste, her sovereign cereal her radiant sauce.

What is my scullery but a little shrine to her palate? A place of not just devotion but, yes, communion, off in the stilly night, when I have tipped down for a cold beef sandwich and a glass of stout, a devoted tear has pricked my eye at the thought that, just a few miles up the road, the herself might, at that very moment, be spreading the self-same mustard on the self-same bread, and raising the self-same nectar to her lip.

But that's all over, now. Even as I write, the Master of the Queen's Fagges, ordained to sample the market in her service, is gaily stuffing his bits and

boobs into his gunny-sack while he waits for his P45 to come down from upstairs, no doubt recalling with a heavy heart those jolly weekly exchanges — "Are one's ciggies still full of flavour?", "Unquestionably ma'am, and as firmly packed as ever", "And the tips sufficiently corky?", "Indeed so, Your Majesty, and a snip at the price" . . . doomed now to be bought but a secret between him and the tabloid press; and it is therefore time for me, in my turn, to go down and clear out my larder.

Odd, that it should be exactly 400 years since Walter Raleigh taught a grateful queen to smoke. Though it pains me deeply to say it, they don't, I fear, make Elizabeths like they used to.

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## FALSE ASYLUM

The current system is neither firm nor fair

Britain's tolerance of asylum-seekers has, in recent years, been heavily strained by foreigners making bogus applications and abusing the system. Reports of such incidents, sometimes exaggerated, have overshadowed the plight of genuine refugees. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, yesterday published the Asylum and Immigration Bill, which he hopes will make the application system "firm, fast and fair" for all. He deserves credit for confronting a treacherous issue before it becomes dangerously divisive.

Mr Straw should ignore criticism that his plans are too tough. Some of the proposals lack detail, and one — forming reception zones for migrants — is ill-advised. Yet, taken as a whole, they show that Mr Straw is addressing many of the failings of the current antiquated system, which is woefully unable to cope with the rising number of asylum-seekers.

The Home Secretary has correctly diagnosed the existing process as a bureaucratic "mess", open to exploitation. Over the past decade, the trickle of people seeking asylum in Britain has swelled into a flood. There were 4,000 applicants in 1988, and 46,000 last year. The ability to appeal, time and again, if an application is refused, means that refugees can wait years before they know their fate. More than 75,000 applicants are currently in the queue. Processing delays cost taxpayers £500 million a year, and give people who would not warrant asylum too much time to vanish or enter a fake marriage. At the end of this sorry, expensive story, seven out of ten applicants are turned away.

The Home Secretary's Bill will accelerate and tighten the process. He has set ambitious targets to deal with applications within two months, and hear any appeal within the next four months. If that appeal is turned down, the applicant will be deported. Such a change is not "unfair", as some refugee organisations suggest, but long overdue. So too is the new regulatory

body to put out of business unscrupulous "immigration advisers" who exploit migrants' ignorance of the application process. Mr Straw is also wisely trying to prevent migrants using wedlock as a legal loophole, by giving registrars new powers to scrutinise suspected "sham" marriages.

Other plans, although well-intended, are less well conceived. The Home Secretary intends to strip asylum-seekers of their right to social security cash benefits, and give them vouchers or support in kind "at a level to ensure their subsistence". The all-important fine print, detailing how this system will work, has yet to emerge. Mr Straw will need to tread carefully in this treacherous terrain. The previous Government received a stinging rebuke in the Court of Appeal when it deprived some refugees of social security benefits.

The most ill-considered proposal aims to iron out an existing anomaly, whereby some local authorities (especially those which administer ports or airports in the South East) must house asylum-seekers. Most council taxpayers in those areas will support Mr Straw's proposal to deny migrants a choice of accommodation. Yet giving the Home Secretary the power to force local authorities to house them in unoccupied homes (termed "reception zones") is a policy riddled with risk. Unless councils are adequately compensated for the costs of housing and caring for asylum-seekers, this approach could inflame tensions between migrants and local communities. If Mr Straw is really intent on keeping track of bogus asylum-seekers, he should consider the practice adopted in many European countries, where migrants are kept in special hostels until their application has been processed.

The public's willingness to support asylum-seekers depends on the application system being firm but fair. At present, it is neither. Mr Straw has made a commendable start at reform. But the devil is there to trap him in the detail.

## PASS THE PARCEL

A game from Sierra Leone for MPs of all parties

The report produced by the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee yesterday employs unprecedented language in its assault on the competence of senior civil servants and on the Foreign Secretary's efforts to "obstruct" its work. Robin Cook retorted that the MPs had not produced a single fact that had not appeared in the Legg report last summer. The Prime Minister then dismissed their findings as "wholly disproportionate".

The evidence analysed in this report is certainly similar to that published by Sir Thomas Legg. Some of criticism of the FCO Permanent Secretary, Sir John Kerr — namely that he "failed in his duties to ministers" — might reasonably be considered excessive. That does not mean that the committee uncovered nothing of merit, or that its conclusions are unwarranted.

It is hardly surprising that in strictly factual terms the committee discovered little that differed from Sir Thomas's narrative. They were, belatedly, dealing with exactly the same material and the Foreign Secretary refused to allow them access to those officials in the intelligence community who might have enlightened them further. The story of utter confusion about the meaning of a United Nations resolution that Britain had apparently helped to draft, and the internal communications failures within Whitehall and between London and Peter Penfold, the High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, is still shocking. The oral evidence acquired by the committee does add some useful detail to this sorry saga.

The purpose of any select committee document is, crucially, different from that of an official, especially internal, inquiry. Sir Thomas rightly confined himself to the procedural aspects of events — who did

what and when — and steered clear of any comment on matters that might be considered within the realm of political management. It was this aspect that, equally correctly, the select committee felt fell within its remit. In order to carry out that task, the MPs required timely access to relevant documents and individuals. They often found their path blocked by a Foreign Secretary who was determined that the Legg report would be the last word on the shambles. This was, as Donald Anderson, the Labour MP who chairs the committee, complained yesterday, an entirely inappropriate fashion in which to conduct business.

The arrogance of the department during the investigation itself has now been trumped by the shameless efforts of the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary to discredit the select committee report after publication. There is no aspect of this episode that reflects well upon the Foreign Office. Tony Blair should not have determined to deploy his personal authority to defend the indefensible.

This sudden ministerial zeal to defend the honour of their mandarins will amuse many in the Foreign Office. They will recall Mr Cook's haste to disown his officials when this controversy first became public. The doctrine of ministerial responsibility may sometimes have been exaggerated but, in moderated form, it is an essential part of the constitution. Officials could be forgiven for assuming that the doctrine has been redefined to mean that ministers take full responsibility for successful policies while civil servants assume responsibility for all failures. It must be hoped that Mr Cook has learnt the lessons of this affair and is today more diplomatic with colleagues at home and abroad than he has so far been with the select committee.

## ROCK OF AGES

Or how Debbie burst from her Jurassic Park

Pop music used to be sung by the young to outrage the old. Now it is sung by the old to embarrass the young. More than 30 years have passed since the Stones set their rock revolution rolling. The generation who first grooved along to concerts has grown up to a museum-going middle age. And the announcement that Britain is to open a National Museum for Popular Music is just another sign of this maturity.

Based in Sheffield, this Jurassic Park of pop will revive the personalities of lost decades. The centre's four circular exhibition halls will house a surround-sound auditorium and several themed rooms. Visitors will be taken on a whistle-stop tour of world pop. And music that was born of a spirit of rebellion will be placed firmly in the context of society's cultural canon.

In harking back to bygone times, this centre will serve to reflect current fashions in pop. Funky sounds that should be little more than fond memories have in recent years been enjoying a cultural comeback. Faded stars are shooting back up the charts. Slade had a revival when the Brit band Oasis covered their classic *Cum On Feel the Noise*. Engelbert Humperdinck, the easy listening old crooner, has recently been remixed to a dance band beat. Some 20 years since Debbie Harry sang a

succession of number ones, the Blondie bombshell has blasted her way back to the prime pop slot. Even Elvis Presley appears to have proved himself a virtual reality. The dead King recently took headline billing at Wembley, and packed the arena.

Some may complain that, by providing a permanent monument to what should be essentially ephemeral, the National Museum of Popular Culture will destroy the thing that it most professes to love: the spirit of protest from which rock culture rose. The museum curators and exhibition designers hope that the centre, through educating visitors, will inspire them to make music themselves, to take up an instrument or form a band. They hope further to feed and encourage one of Britain's most vibrant and lucrative industries.

In comparison with other forms of cultural expression, with writing or painting, for example, pop is still in adolescence. Its pulse beats strong. Its music may currently be going through a phase of imitations, of retro remixes and rebranded names. But with the imagination and innovation of each generation, pop will rebel and find new fashions. And the rock of ages can only serve as a firm foundation for music's future.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 5XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### 'Haunting' lessons of Balkan history

From Colonel Charles H. Wilson  
(ret'd)

Sir, The reservations in your timely leading article, "Gladstone's shade" (February 3), urging Mr Blair to give the full reasons to the British people for putting troops in harm's way in Kosovo are well made.

However, they ought to be alarmed when friendly peers such as Lord Williams of Mostyn and Lord McNally (letter, February 6) show a more than keen interest in the performance and procedures of the Press Complaints Commission. Former PCC member Gerald Isaaman (letter, same day) also highlights the need for a fundamental reappraisal of the PCC's remit.

When the chairman, Lord Wakeham, insists the commission works as well as it can do within these terms of reference he effectively makes Lord McNally's case that "things cannot be left as they are".

Lord McNally speaks, no doubt, with an awareness of the legislation that lurks in the volume of directives waiting to be issued by the European Union, which will, assuredly, put considerable restraints on the British media if it is decreed that self-regulation is not working.

Not unnaturally, editors would prefer to ignore such threats in the hope that they will go away. We always have done so in the past and can point to the fact that David Mellor's notorious last-chance saloon never actually closed its doors.

Sadly, therefore, we have done little with the time borrowed, courtesy of the previous Government's other concerns. We have not honed the instrument of self-regulation because we are aware that sharp blades can be dangerous. There is now, however, a growing awareness that a blunt weapon in the wrong hands can be equally damaging.

Editors need, as a matter of some urgency, to step back from their individual circumscribed battles and unite to prepare for the inevitability of war

Yours faithfully,  
CHARLES WILSON,  
Foxhills,  
70 Long Road, Framingham Earl,  
Norwich NR14 7RZ  
February 5

From Mr G. L. Leigh

Sir, Does the United Kingdom owe a duty to the Kosovar people? If so, how does it arise and what precisely is its extent? If the answer is humanitarian and limitless I wonder why we do not dispatch troops worldwide, e.g. to stop the Hindus and Tutsis killing one another.

You hint in your leading article that war in the Balkans must be stopped as international instability threatens our trading interests. How so? Arms are one of our principal exports.

Yours faithfully,  
G. L. LEIGH,  
85 Leith Mansions,  
Granville Road, Maida Vale, W9 1LJ  
February 4

From Mr Garth ap Rees

Sir, Gladstone's shade walks not only in the Balkans but in Africa as well. In 1894, the final year of his last administration, Uganda was granted the status of a British protectorate by the Crown. A *Tenniel Punch* cartoon depicted Uganda as a foundling placed at the feet of Queen Victoria.

Your leading article refers to Briðið troops serving the cause of European peace and that as "a trading nation with global interests", Britain must be "prepared to deploy its forces where international stability is threatened".

The inference here is that we do not regard the current events in Sudan, Somalia, the countries of the Great Lakes region, Angola and Liberia as threats to international stability, despite trading with them. Only Sierra Leone merits a "guiltiness" and considerable additional support for a democratically elected President, a resolute and admirable High Commissioner and embarrassment over the Sandline involvement.

After a lifetime of working in and for Africa, dating from 1958, I can only reflect sadly that, irrespective of the government of the day, the final score-line always reads Europe 1 Africa 0. Despite all the talk of globalisation, it seems to me that basic attitudes have barely changed for a century.

Yours faithfully,  
GARTH AP REES  
(Member, UN Development  
Programme, 1964-92),  
Cranhill House, Piers Road,  
Cranmore, Somerset BA4 4QH  
February 4

Exploring Mars

From Dr Patrick Moore

Sir, Your report (February 2) on plans for a robot aircraft, *Kitty Hawk*, to fly over the Red Planet takes me back to the only conversation I ever had with Orville Wright at the very start of the Second World War, when I was an (admittedly underage) teenager learning how to fly.

I had about ten minutes' talk and I well remember saying: "Will we ever fly to the Moon?" He paused, and said: "Well, they said we couldn't fly over the Earth, but we did."

Nell Armstrong, the first man on the Moon, and Orville Wright, the first airman, could have met. I am sure they didn't, but their lives overlapped.

Where is the first man on Mars?

Yours faithfully,  
PATRICK MOORE,  
Farthings, West Street,  
Selsey, Sussex PO20 9AD.  
February 7

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046, e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

### Editors face 'war' over regulation

From the Executive Director  
of the Association of  
British Editors

Sir, Editors should not be unduly concerned about being unloved by the politicians nor, for that matter, by the low esteem in which they are held by Middle England.

However, they ought to be alarmed when friendly peers such as Lord Williams of Mostyn and Lord McNally (letter, February 6) show a more than keen interest in the performance and procedures of the Press Complaints Commission. Former PCC member Gerald Isaaman (letter, same day) also highlights the need for a fundamental reappraisal of the PCC's remit.

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Editors need, as a matter of some urgency, to step back from their individual circumscribed battles and unite to prepare for the inevitability of war

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD STOREY  
(Chairman, Portsmouth & Sunderland Newspapers plc, 1973-98).  
Settrington House,  
Malton, Yorkshire YO17 8NP.  
February 8

### Nuclear power

From Professor Ian Fells,  
FEng, FRSE

Sir, Sir Christopher Harding and Sir Bernard Ingham invite us to "embrace nuclear power" (letter, February 2; see also letters, February 6).

Over 40 years ago, when the industry was in its first flush of youth, we embraced it eagerly. Now, in mature middle age, it provides 17 per cent of world electricity. Without it, carbon dioxide emissions from electricity generation would rise by 17 per cent. Nevertheless, the green movement, despite its concern for the environment, cannot bring itself to see any virtue in nuclear power and is determined to close down the industry.

It seems to me that the way ahead must lie with "clean energy", which is a mix of renewable and nuclear energy. There is a synergy between them which is becoming apparent.

If anyone can show me how to provide the predicted doubling, even trebling of world energy demand post-2050 without a large nuclear input, particularly if some attempt is made to curb the carbon dioxide emissions, I shall be delighted.

But, if as I suspect, this proves to be impossible, let us get on with making nuclear energy as safe and efficient as we can, instead of constantly sniping at it and demoralising the workforce.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN FELLS,  
University of Newcastle,  
Merz Court,  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU.  
February 6

### Hoddle and Woodhead

From Mrs Helen Simons

Sir, It seems that according to the Government, a remark on a belief in reincarnation is grounds for sacking someone (letters, February 1, 3, 4, 5).

If, however, a high-ranking member of the teaching profession says it could be "educative on both sides" for an adult in a position of authority over a teenager to have sex with that teenager (even though he has since apologised), then it seems the same Government doesn't think such a remark worthy of the sack (report, "Blunkett rejects call for inspector to resign", February 8).

Is the world crazy?

Yours,  
HELEN SIMMONS,  
Willow House, Swallowfield Road,  
Wendling, Norfolk NR19 2AB.  
February 8

### Business school fees

From Mr Wafic Rida Said

Sir, Your Diary column's report (February 2) on my role at the Business School at Oxford University is somewhat wide of the mark.

Firstly, the level of tuition fees charged by the Business School is nothing to do with me. I have no involvement in academic issues or the running of the school. These are matters for the school's director and faculty, and the university more generally.

Secondly, you suggest that Oxford University "discouraged" my support for building the Business School. In

being waged against them by self-interested politicians.

Yours faithfully,  
JOCK GALLAGHER,  
Executive Director,  
Association of British Editors  
49 Frederick Road,  
Birmingham B15 4HN.

From Sir Richard Storey  
Sir, On the matter of the Press Complaints Commission's right to initiate an investigation, Lord Wakeham (letter, February 5) expresses his somewhat legalistic and pedantic views trenchantly, but they are helium!

The Press Council, on which I was privileged to serve under the then Mr Patrick Neill (now Lord Neill of Bladen) and subsequently under Sir Zelman Cowen, both conspicuously brilliant and distinguished chairmen, did undertake its own investigations without prior complaint. It was respectable, by reason of its very high standards of adjudication, albeit not everywhere respected — partly owing to its self-imposed laborious procedures in the name of natural justice, partly to its political climate of the time.

So far as I recall, such a right of investigation was easy to assume, undertake, and accomplish; I have always advocated it for the PCC.

Surely other self-regulatory bodies are, typically, able to investigate without prior complaint and also have teeth, for the lack of which the present PCC is frequently, and probably rightly, criticised.

It is now time for the PCC to stop its special pleading and, by studying the virtues of other regulatory bodies, seek to emulate them in their powers of investigation and the penalties they impose.</



## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
February 9: His Excellency Mr Vuong Thua Pong was received in audience by The Queen and presented his Letter of Credence as Ambassador of Vietnam to the Court of St James's.

Mrs Ngo Thi Phi Nga was received by Her Majesty.

His Excellency Dr Richard Grant was received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as High Commissioner for New Zealand in London.

The Dean of Westminster was received by The Queen.

The Lord Camrose [Lord Chamberlain] had an audience of The Queen and presented an Address from the House of Lords to which Her Majesty was graciously pleased to make reply.

The Right Hon Tony Blair, MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of The Queen this evening.

**CLARENCE HOUSE**  
February 9: The Hon Mrs Rhodes has succeeded Dame Frances Campbell-Preston as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

**ST JAMES'S PALACE**  
February 9: The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, today presented the 500th Prince's Youth Business Trust award to be made in Gloucester-shire.

His Royal Highness, Chancellor, The University of Wales, this afternoon held a lunch for the Pro-Chancellor, Senior Vice-Chancellor, Secretary General and a group of students.

The Prince of Wales, Vice

President, The National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty, later visited Step Farm, one of the Trust's organic farms.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
February 9: The Prince Edward, President, this evening attended a performance of *Kissing Dance* given by the National Youth Music Theatre at the Lyric Theatre Hammersmith, King Street, London W6.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
February 9: The Princess Royal, Patron, Basic Skills Agency, this morning attended the British Council International Seminar at the Strand Palace Hotel, The Strand, London WC2.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon officially opened Moorcroft School, Bramble Close, Hillingdon, Middlesex.

The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, later attended the Industry and Commerce Group Meeting, followed by a Reception at St James's Palace.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
February 9: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Colonel-in-Chief Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, today received Brigadier Jane Arighi on relinquishing her appointment as Director of Army Nursing Services, Merton-in-Chief (Army), and Colonel Bridget McEvilly on assuming this appointment.

**ST JAMES'S PALACE**  
February 9: The Duke of Kent, President, Edexcel Foundation, this morning attended Edexcel Student of the Year Awards at Drapers Hall, Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2.

**Royal engagements**

The Prince of Wales will open the General Osteopathic Council Building, 176 Tower Bridge Road, London SE1, at 11.15.

The Princess Royal, president, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will visit the Scottish Apparel Group, 6th Floor, 5 Portland Place, London W1, at 10.15; as patron, the Home Farm Trust, will attend their management board update meeting at Mitsubishi Electric, Kiernan Cross, II, The Strand, London WC2, at 11.30; as president, Royal Yachting Association, will attend a council meeting at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, 60 Knightsbridge, at 3.00; and will present the Whitley Award Scheme for International Conservation Awards at the Royal Geographical Society, I

Kensington Gore, London SW7, at 6.30.

Princess Margaret, president, the Birmingham Royal Ballet, will attend the London Premiere of *The Prospect Before Us* and *The Protecting Veil* at the new Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1, at 7.30.

**Air Marshal Sir Donald Hall**

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Air Marshal Sir Donald Hall, KCB, CBE, AFC, will be held on Thursday, April 22, 1999, at noon at St Clement Danes, Strand, London WC2. Those intending to be present are asked to notify the Ministry of Defence, Pld (Ceremonial) (RAF) on 0171 218 2524 or 2628.

**Baron Williamson of Horton**

The life history conferred upon Sir

David Francis Williamson has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Williamson of

Horton, of Horton in the County of Somerset.



Alexandra Aitken, Jonathan Aitken's daughter, modelling at a charity fashion show and party in aid of the NSPCC held yesterday at the K Bar, Chelsea.

## School news

**Harrow School**  
In addition to the programme of events already circulated to members of the Harrow Association there will be a service in the School Chapel at 10.15am on Saturday, February 13, in commemoration of the late King Hussein of Jordan (OJ). The scheduled Founder's Day service at 3pm will also include an act of commemoration.

**Eton College**  
Those following have won Music Awards in 1998.

**Music Scholarships** Gavyn Evans (The Cathedral School, Llandaff); Richard Jones (Hazelwood School); Jonathan Kanagaswamy (St Edmund's Junior School, Canterbury); Matthew Knight (Dulwich College Prep School); John Lazimore (Milbourne Lodge); Timothy Lowe (The Minster School, York); Charlotte Siem (Colet Court); Christian Stubbs (St Edmund's Junior School, Canterbury).

**Music Exhibitions** Sébastien Hines (The Pilgrims' School); David Leslie (Westminster Cathedral Choir School); Andrew Lim (Summer Fields); Toby MacLachlan (Dolphin School); Patrick Meyer Higgins (Thomas's); Dominic Munton (The Cathedral Chor School, Ripon); Peter Rice (Newnham House).

**Royal Caledonian Ball**  
The Royal Caledonian Ball will be held on Thursday, April 29, at Grosvenor House, London W1. Dinner at 8pm Park 7.30pm for Spin, dress at 8.30pm to include a half hour of wine.

The Ball commences at 10.30pm with dancing until 2.30am. Tickets at £90 to include a half hour of wine.

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# THE TIMES TODAY

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 10 1999

## NEWS

### Ethnic quotas for police forces

Jack Straw is ordering chief constables to treble black and Asian recruitment as part of an effort to salvage the reputation of the police before the Stephen Lawrence inquiry report is published.

A national target of 7 per cent of officers from ethnic minorities will be imposed with forces required to introduce quotas, even in areas that are overwhelmingly white. The Home Secretary also intends to punish officers convicted of serious disciplinary offences by cutting their pensions.....Page 1

### Blair attack on arms report

Damning criticism by a Commons committee of the Foreign Office and its most senior official over their behaviour in the arms-to-Africa affair was condescendingly swept aside by Tony Blair and Robin Cook yesterday.....Pages 1, 8

### Ammunition crisis

The Armed Forces may have to rely on foreign suppliers for all its ammunition stocks after British Aerospace gave warning that its Royal Ordnance factories could close in six months.....Page 2

### Asylum housing

Jack Straw is to order local authorities to make empty houses and hostels available for asylum-seekers.....Page 4

### Much Ado

A British film, *Shakespeare in Love*, stole the limelight at the Oscar nominations with 13, including the most coveted categories of Best Picture, Screenplay and Director.....Page 1

### War crimes trial

Britain's first war crimes trial was told that the 77-year-old man in court helped to kill Jews after embracing "with enthusiasm" the Nazi ideology.....Page 3

### Meningitis alert

Doctors will not know for nearly a week whether they have contained an outbreak of meningococcal meningitis that has killed three people in one town.....Page 5

### Better schools

State schools have achieved a big improvement in standards, despite there still being up to 15,000 incompetent teachers, said the Chief Inspector of Schools.....Page 6

### London wins EU wealth crown

Central London is the richest area in the European Union. The 2.7 million residents in the heart of the capital enjoy wealth more than twice the rate of the EU average, a survey reported. However, the contrast between the capital and the rest of the UK was marked. Britain has the biggest disparities and is 10th out of 15 in the EU wealth league.....Page 1



After the heaviest snowfalls in Switzerland since 1984, a woman walks her dog through the calm beauty of Waltensburg yesterday. Page 4

## BUSINESS

**Job losses:** SmithKline Beecham, the pharmaceutical group vulnerable to a takeover, announced plans to cut 3,000 jobs worldwide in a cost-cutting campaign.....Page 21

**BA difficulties:** Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge, the chairman of British Airways, said that difficulties are unlikely to improve in the foreseeable future.....Page 21

**Chief sacked:** Vaux, the Sunderland-based brewing and hotel group, was the subject of renewed takeover speculation after the sacking of its chief executive following a boardroom feud.....Page 21

**Olympic corruption:** Three top Salt Lake City Olympic officials were identified yesterday as lynchpins in the corruption scandal that has clouded the future of the 2002 Winter Games and the entire Olympic movement.....Page 24

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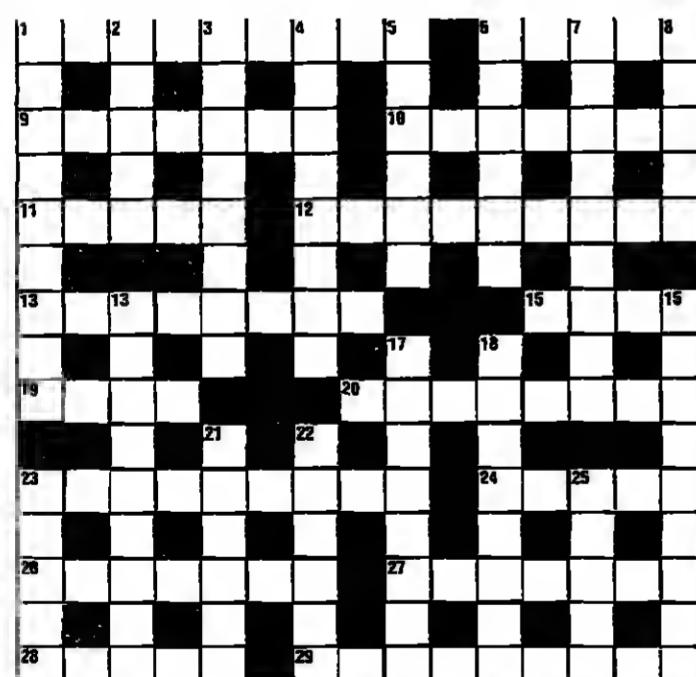
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THE TIMES



**Noel  
Jazzes  
it up**

Arts, Page 31

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 10 1999

## Sacking of Vaux chief renews talk of takeover

By DOMINIC WALSH

VAUX, the brewing and hotel group based in Sunderland, was the subject of renewed takeover speculation last night after the shock sacking of its chief executive and finance director after a boardroom feud.

In a terse statement, the group said that Martin Grant, chief executive since June, and Neal Gossage had "left the company with immediate effect and have ceased to be directors". Peter Castey, the managing director of its Swallow Hotels division, has been appointed group chief executive.

Analysts believe that the departures could prompt interest from rival hoteliers, including David Michels, the Stakis chief executive. Mr Michels made an unsuccessful attempt to buy the company last year and observers believe that the forthcoming sale of Stakis to Ladbrooke need not be a barrier to a £400 million bid for Vaux.

The clash at Vaux is understood to relate to the board's recent decision to name a management buyout team as preferred bidder for the two breweries and 350 tenanted pubs put up for sale in September. The MBO, led by Frank Nicholson, brother of the group's chairman, Sir Paul Nicholson, is worth an estimated £70 million and is backed by Alchemy Partners, the venture capitalist.

Mr Nicholson, who has been given a four-week period of exclusivity in which to conclude a deal, was the only bidder for the entire package, the only other substantial bid being one of about £15 million from its close neighbour, Mansfield Brewery, for a package of 115 pubs and the Wards Brewery in Sheffield, which would have been closed.

Messrs Grant and Gossage are said to have favoured the Mansfield deal, which would have meant Vaux retaining the other 235 pubs and closing the Sunderland brewery for redevelopment — a controversial decision given the implications for jobs in an area already badly hit by the manufacturing crisis. The pair are said to have argued that such a move, allied to a new beer supply agreement with one of the big brewers, would have been worth £25 million more than the MBO bid.

Although the decision to go with the MBO was taken by a small committee consisting of the independent non-executive directors and the group's advisers, BT Alex Brown and Noble Grossart, the two men are said to have privately approached some of Vaux's biggest institutional shareholders to express their unhappiness with the decision.

A source said last night: "This had been brewing for some time. Grant's decision to centralise the running of the company rubbed people up the wrong way, and he never felt comfortable with Vaux's north-eastern culture. Their decision to go to institutions was viewed as going behind the backs of the rest of the board." *Tempus*, page 24

# SmithKline Beecham poised to shed 3,000

By PAUL DURMAN

SMITHKLINE BEECHAM, the pharmaceutical group seen as vulnerable to a takeover, yesterday unveiled a wide-ranging shake-up that will include the loss of 3,000 jobs and the sale of businesses worth \$2 billion (£1.2 billion).

Jan Leschly, chief executive, pledged the group to make savings of £200 million a year by 2002 — and to increase its underlying earnings by 13 per cent this year, before accelerating to "mid- to high-teens growth" in 2000 and 2001.

The sales of Diversified Pharmaceutical Services for \$700 million and of 70 per cent of SB Clinical Laboratories for \$1.025 billion will reduce the group to its biggest and most profitable businesses in pharmaceuticals and consumer healthcare.

Mr Leschly reiterated his confidence in a strong, independent future for SB, which has been questioned since the collapse of its proposed merger with Glaxo Wellcome a year ago. He said: "We are a stronger company, we are focused more than ever on consumers and pharmaceuticals, and we have retained our access to valuable data [from DPS and Clinical Laboratories]."

He added: "We are not talking to anybody, we are not planning to talk to anybody. The discussions with Glaxo Wellcome are behind us."

SB's shares rose 33p to 831/4p, although the 6 per cent rise in annual pre-tax profits to £1.1 billion it reported was slightly below the consensus of forecasts. Analysts remain convinced of the potential for further deals between the world's leading drug companies.

Most of the 3,000 jobs will be lost in manufacturing, as SB closes or sells some of its 67 plants around the world to create

sites "centres of excellence". The company would not spell out the likely impact on the UK. The efficiency drive, which will also include global purchasing agreements, will cost £750 million to implement over four years. The first £90 million, including £38 million of asset write-offs, were charged against the 1998 results.

SB also lost £446 million after tax on the sale of DPS, the US drug purchasing manager that Mr Leschly bought for \$2.3 billion shortly after becoming chief executive in 1994. DPS, which lost £32 million last year, will be acquired by Express Scripts, a similarly sized rival. Mr Leschly said that SB had "achieved value" through its ownership of DPS.

Clinical Laboratories, the American blood and urine-testing business, will be sold to Quest Diagnostics, though SB will retain a 29.5 per cent stake. Mr Leschly said this would allow the group to benefit from the "major synergies" from the deal.

The savings will allow SB to pump more money into research and development, where spending represented 19 per cent of pharmaceutical sales in last quarter of 1998.

Excluding currencies, SB's results represent earnings and profit growth of 10 per cent, although underlying pre-tax profits grew by only 7 per cent to £518 million in the final quarter. Pharmaceutical profits grew 7 per cent to £1.3 billion, led by the 21 per cent growth from Seretide/Pasil, the anti-depressant, sales of which topped £1 billion. However, after a bad fourth quarter, consumer healthcare profits slipped 3 per cent to £365 million.

SB is paying an interim dividend of 3.66p, a 10 per cent increase.



Jan Leschly, chief executive, who committed SmithKline Beecham to an independent future

## BA's difficulties set to continue, says Marshall

By ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

LORD MARSHALL of Knightsbridge, the chairman of British Airways, said yesterday that difficulties in the airline business are unlikely to improve in the foreseeable future.

The comments came as the airline posted a quarterly pre-tax loss for the first time in four years. BA lost £75 million for the three months to December 31. In the comparable third quarter of the previous year it made a profit of £80 million.

Although the decision to go with the MBO was taken by a small committee consisting of the independent non-executive directors and the group's advisers, BT Alex Brown and Noble Grossart, the two men are said to have privately approached some of Vaux's biggest institutional shareholders to express their unhappiness with the decision.

A source said last night: "This had been brewing for some time. Grant's decision to centralise the running of the company rubbed people up the wrong way, and he never felt comfortable with Vaux's north-eastern culture. Their decision to go to institutions was viewed as going behind the backs of the rest of the board." *Tempus*, page 24



STEPHEN WALLS, who has become better known for his golden handshakes than his achievements in the boardroom, has emerged as a key player in the takeover battle for Servisair, the baggage handling group.

Mr Walls, who is a director of Servisair, is linked to a possible takeover bid being prepared for the company by Compass Partners, a manager of venture capital funds. Compass yesterday refused to discuss the prospective bid,

or its ties to Mr Walls. Servisair confirmed he was "connected with a possible alternative offeror" but would not elaborate. Servisair is the target of an £81.4 million hostile takeover bid from Amey, the contract services provider.

The offer is equal to 200p a share and compares with yesterday's closing price for Servisair of 2181/2p. The company's shares peaked at 505p in 1997 but fell to a low of 102p last October.

Brian Staples, the Amey chief executive, yesterday questioned Mr Wall's involvement in any alternative bid for Servisair. "If it [the bid] is real, it causes me some concern because Stephen Walls clearly has an intimate knowledge of the accounts of the business," Mr Staples said.

Mr Walls is well remembered in the City for the remuneration packages he has reaped in return for his services to shareholders. In its defence document sent to shareholders yesterday, Servisair described Amey's offer as opportunistic. John Willis, the Servisair chief executive, said: "The offer we have does not reflect the customer relationships we have and the position we have in Europe to go forward." However, Mr Staples described Servisair's defence as "jam tomorrow" and said that shareholders should be told whether there was an alternative bid.

Commentary, page 23

## Diller creates \$20bn online retail combine

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

USA NETWORKS, the American entertainment company run by Barry Diller, is creating a new online retailing powerhouse worth \$20 billion (£12.2 billion).

In the latest merger in the Internet sector, USA Networks will take over Lycos, the third-biggest online search engine, and combine it with its Home Shopping Network television channel and Ticketmaster, the telephone ticket seller. Financial

details are yet to be issued, but Lycos investors will receive extra shares if the combined market value exceeds \$45 billion in two years' time.

The new company aims to be the first fully integrated electronic retailer, combining the persuasiveness of television with the ease of access of the Internet and the telephone. The company, to be called USA/Lycos Interactive Networks, will have sales of \$1.5 billion.

It will be owned 61.5 per cent by USA Networks and 30 per cent by Lycos shareholders.

Lycos shareholders are estimated to receive a premium of only 2.5 per cent after their shares' recent sharp rise in expectation of a deal. Lycos previously had talks with General Electric, owner of the NBC television channel.

USA/Lycos will reach about 30 million Internet users and 70 million television homes.

### THE MAN AND HIS MONEY

1989 Given £1 million pay-off when Plessey is taken over by GEC. 1992 Leaves Wiggins Teape Appleton, with £75,000 after merger with Ameyair-Fisons. 1992 Non-exec chairman of Albert Fisher (£100,000 salary). Left last year. 1999 Remains director of Lenno Africa.

## Closure threat for Ordnance

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

BRITISH AEROSPACE is to start closing its Royal Ordnance factories if it cannot find a buyer for the business — potentially cutting thousands of jobs.

The move, its first steps towards a shake-up of its defence systems, is part of a tough rationalisation programme designed to improve returns in defence systems.

The tough rationalisation programme would also cut a swathe through managerial ranks in other divisions and sell off unprofitable businesses. It comes ahead of BAE's planned £7 billion merger with GEC Marconi.

The threat to Royal Ordnance comes as the loss-making business struggles amid a massive decline in orders from the Ministry of Defence.

Ordnance threat, page 2  
Commentary, page 23

## Walls has key role in Servisair bid battle

By PAUL ARMSTRONG



STEPHEN WALLS, who has become better known for his golden handshakes than his achievements in the boardroom, has emerged as a key player in the takeover battle for Servisair, the baggage handling group.

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In its defence document sent to shareholders yesterday,

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**Virgin to put £1.25bn into trains**

Richard Branson's Virgin Rail yesterday signed a £1.25 billion deal — the single biggest investment in new stock — for new 140mph tilting trains that will cut an hour from London to Scotland. It came as the company appointed Chris Green, a former senior British Rail figure, as its new chief executive.

Virgin will take on 53 eight-car and nine-car tilting trains that will be made in Europe but assembled by trainmaker Alstom in the West Midlands. Angel Trains, Britain's biggest train leasing company, will invest £52 million in the trains, the remaining £661 million going on maintenance.

The first train will be delivered in 2001, with complete delivery by September 2002.

#### Capital growth

Capital Shopping Centres, the retail landlord that owns Lakeside in Essex and Metro-Centre in the North East, said its out-of-town shopping units provided a safe haven from the turmoil on the high street over 1998 — allowing it to increase average rents by 12 per cent. Its net asset value rose 18 per cent, to 462p a share over 1998, and 80 per cent of the valuation uplift was driven by rental growth. Pre-tax profit was £8.7 million (£7.4 million), with investment income up 10.5 per cent to £10.7 million. The shares added 7p to 373p.

#### BWD advances

BWD Securities, the stockbroker, is to lift its total dividend by 60 per cent after reporting a 64 per cent rise in year-end pre-tax profits to £5.4 million. A final dividend of 8.5p, payable on April 9, takes the annual dividend to 12p, compared to 7.5p last year. Earnings per share have jumped to 19.2p from 11.1p. Group turnover rose 22 per cent to £22.3 million, of which just under half was fee income.

#### Drug approval

Globo Welcome has received its first regulatory approval for Relenza, its new treatment for influenza. After approval by Sweden's Medical Products Agency, Relenza should quickly win the go-ahead to be marketed across Europe under the European Union's mutual recognition procedure. The new medicine, which is inhaled, was developed by Biota, an Australian biotechnology company.

# Confidence pick-up in CBI survey challenged

BY SAED SHAH

THE GLOOM hanging over manufacturing deepened yesterday with a survey showing falling orders and continuing weakness in business confidence in all regions.

Although the Confederation of British Industry quarterly regional trends survey showed fewer firms were pessimistic about prospects across the regions in January, compared with October, analysts said that the marginal increases in optimism seen in recent surveys are not justified by the economic outlook for industry.

Stephen Lewis, chief economist of Monument Derivatives, said that the City had been fooled by an apparent rise in confidence among manufacturers. "Financial markets are far too optimistic about UK output prospects," he said.

"The fact that the answers to confidence questions are slightly less negative than a few months ago still means that industry's outlook is negative."

Jonah Loxnes, of HSBC Markets, said: "The slight pick-up in confidence over the last month or two, brought about by lower interest rates, is not backed up by an improvement in interest rates to fall to 5 per cent "by the spring".

The CBI has called for

interest rates to fall to 5 per cent "by the spring".

## Siemens accuses rivals for Internet acquisitions

SIEMENS, the German electronics group, yesterday accused its rivals of "throwing away shareholders' money" by acquiring overrated Internet and technology companies (Chris Ayres writes from Berlin).

Volker Jung, a senior executive of Siemens, which was unveiling its own strategy in the telecommunications sector, said: "There is a clear overrating of stock going on. Fantasy has become more important than reality, which is dangerous. We will not throw away our shareholders' money, but other companies are clearly doing that."



Danny Rosenkranz, left, and Tony Isaac unveiled a profit fall

## Regulator attempts to avert MBO paralysis

ACCOUNTANTS were yesterday given a get-out clause by their regulator over the Year 2000 bug in an attempt to avert a paralysis in the management buyout market (Jason Nisbet writes).

The Auditing Practices Board issued a bulletin that states under what conditions accountants are able to sign Financial Assistance certificates, a requirement under the Companies Act that allows a leveraged buyout of a limited company. The certificates say that a company can meet its debts as they come due over the next year.

There had been worries that accountants would not be able to sign these certificates because of fears that the Year 2000 bug in computers could have such an adverse effect on companies' finances that it could force them into receivership.

The APB said accountants can obtain an opinion from the directors of the company being bought out that they can deal with the Year 2000 bug. So long as the accountants consider the director's report to be "not unreasonable", they can sign the Financial Assistance statement.

## Profit woe takes toll of BOC share price

BY PAUL ARMSTRONG

SHARES in BOC Group were marked down heavily yesterday as the industrial gas supplier unveiled a 9.2 per cent drop in pre-tax profits for the December quarter.

The profit fall to £84.9 million and comments from Danny Rosenkranz, chief executive, that BOC's gas business, which accounts for 82 per cent of the company's turnover, had suffered "increasingly difficult trading conditions", saw 85 per cent wiped from BOC's share price in early trading. A partial recovery later saw the shares close down 5.7 per cent on the day at 814p.

Mr Rosenkranz said he was at a loss to explain the City's hostile reaction to the results at BOC, whose finance director is Tony Isaac, and believed the market had been well-informed of its trading position. He said lower volumes had been almost entirely offset by the reduced costs that had flowed from BOC's efficiency drive. Gas products generated a £94.4 million operating profit in the period, down from £101 million in the previous corresponding period.

Mr Rosenkranz said he believed gas volumes this year would be similar to 1998 and profit margins would be the same or slightly better because of cost-cutting. The vacuum technology division registered a widely expected drop in operating profit from £1.2 million to £1.6 million.

Tempus, page 24

## Valuation dispute halts Abbot merger

THE £500 million merger of Abbot, the oilfield services company, and ProSafe, of Norway, has collapsed after disagreement on valuations. The merger, proposed last month, would have been on a 50-50 basis, despite Abbot's larger market capitalisation. The 1997 operating profits of both groups were similar. News that talks had failed lifted Abbot's shares 30p to 175p yesterday. Alasdair Locke, Abbot's chairman, said: "There's nothing wrong with ProSafe. We think they are excellent. It was a perfectly valid disagreement about price."

The proposed deal, seen as a sensible response to the mergers sweeping the oil and gas industry, would have created a big provider of offshore inspection services, mud-processing equipment and fabrication of offshore modules. ProSafe and Abbot each said that their 1998 results would be in line with market expectations, but some analysts said the failure of the deal after a month of talks leaves both vulnerable to takeover.

## Senior News Corp post

LACHLAN MURDOCH has been named senior executive vice-president of The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*. He will assume responsibility for the company's US print operations, including HarperCollins, the publisher, the *New York Post* newspaper and News America Marketing, the newspaper insert service. Mr Murdoch, 27, son of Rupert Murdoch, News Corp's chairman and chief executive, remains chairman and chief executive of News Limited, its Australian arm.

## Amstrad in the black

AMSTRAD, the consumer electronics company, returned to profit in its first half, earning £4.1 million before tax in the six months to December 31, after a pre-tax loss of £900,000 in its previous first half. Sales rose to £455.5 million, from £30.9 million, lifted by strong demand for television and video products. Amstrad began supplying digital satellite receivers to BSkyB in October. Earnings per share were 3.56p, against losses of 1.14p. The interim dividend rises to 0.3p, from 0.2p.

## Pub deals lined up

PUBS 'N' BARS, the AIM-listed pub minnow, is poised to acquire 37 pubs in two deals with a total value of about £15 million. The bigger deal will see the company acquire the 34-strong Real Leisure group, which owns 16 per cent of Pubs 'n' Bars and runs four pubs under a management agreement. Pubs 'n' Bars is also thought to be acquiring three other pubs, taking its estate to 41. The company, capitalised at just over £2 million, is likely to fund the deals largely with paper.

## Pycraft suitor revealed

SHARES in Pycraft & Arnold, the chartered loss adjuster, fell back 3p to 65½p yesterday as Fishers International, the financial services group, was flushed out as its suitor. Pycraft said on Monday that it had received a bid offer which had been made at a "modest premium" to Friday's closing price of 53½p. Yesterday Fishers said that it was in "advanced discussions" to take over Pycraft, whose shares had leapt from their recent 12-month low of 49p.

## Slow recovery for oil

GLOBAL demand for oil is likely to recover even more slowly in 1999 than previously expected because of the spread of economic slowdown in developing countries, the International Energy Agency said yesterday. The IEA, the West's energy watchdog, has shaved its annual demand forecast, estimating that demand would rise by just one million barrels per day (bpd) or 1.4 per cent to 74.67 million bpd this year. Last month the IEA forecast 1999 demand at 75.05 million bpd.

## PowerGen buys stake

POWERGEN has paid £38 million for a 49.9 per cent stake in LG Energy, an independent power producer in South Korea owned by LG, the industrial conglomerate. LG Energy is spending £209 million building a gas-fired plant, which will become the country's first independent generating station. Ed Wallis, chairman of PowerGen, said that he expected South Korea to continue to be one of world's fastest-growing energy markets despite its region's recent economic downturn.

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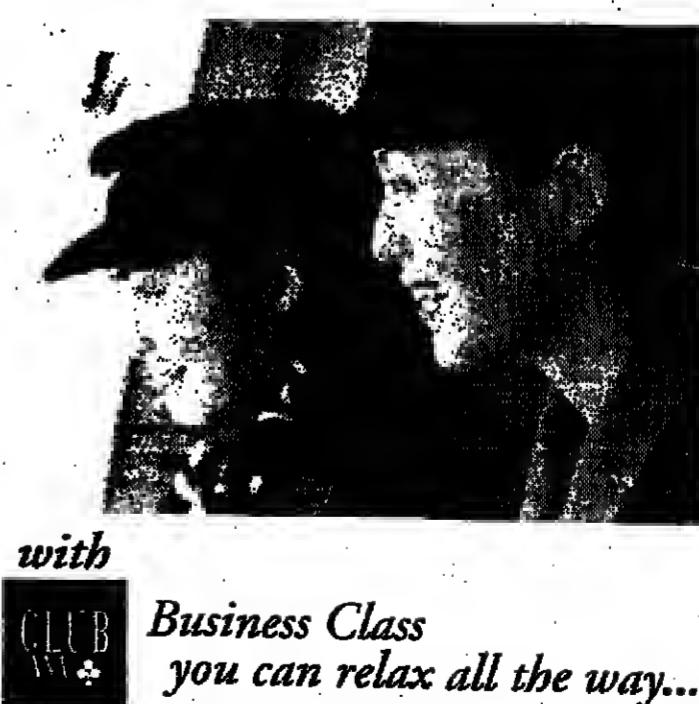


### EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$.....	2.62	2.45
Austria Sch.....	20.94	19.26
Belgium Fr.....	61.54	58.75
Canada \$.....	2.26	2.18
Cyprus Cyp L.....	0.8847	0.8132
Denmark Kr.....	11.35	10.47
Egypt £.....	1.17	1.11
Finland Nok.....	9.17	8.42
France Fr.....	9.95	9.20
Germany DM.....	2.997	2.755
Hong Kong \$.....	13.51	12.31
Iceland £.....	1.27	1.07
Indonesia Rp.....	17.95	16.45
Ireland £.....	1.955	1.899
Israel Shek.....	7.04	6.98
Italy Lira.....	2.983	2.745
Japan Yen.....	0.6869	0.6707
Malta £.....	1.12	1.04
Netherlands Gld.....	3.585	3.090
New Zealand \$.....	13.12	12.18
Portugal Esc.....	202.12	201.09
S Africa Rd.....	10.60	9.64
Spain Pes.....	2.02	2.01
Sweden Kr.....	13.70	12.69
Turkey Lira.....	2.474	2.295
USA \$.....	573.15	565.92
Yugoslavia Dinar.....	1.00	0.90

Rates for small denominations only as quoted by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates at close of trading yesterday.

## Flying to Japan?



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**T**his spring, British Airways will embark on a new staff training programme entitled "Putting People First Again". Admirable though this may be, it does rather beg the question of where BA has been putting people recently. Among both staff and customers there has been a suspicion that people were not featuring near the top of BA's priorities.

If you take pride in being the "price leader", a concept that airline operators interpret in the opposite way to grocers, then well motivated staff doing their best to look after passengers are essential. Otherwise price leadership just looks plain expensive.

Bob Ayling has been focusing on profit rather than people and there can be no doubt that the drastic cost-cutting he instigated was essential to BA's long-term survival. But if the new training programme represents a realisation that profits depend on people, there is a chance that BA could rebuild its reputation as the world's favourite airline, at least with shareholders and those passengers who do not object to paying premium prices for extra legroom and linen napery.

That there will continue to be a growing number of people prepared to do just that is crucial to Mr Ayling's strategy for the airline. Although BA has launched

Go to cater for price-conscious fliers, Mr Ayling is loath to see suits and briefcases climbing aboard. Companies may talk of cost cutting but he clearly does not expect them to take the exercise as seriously as BA has done, exporting jobs to India and cutting cabin crew wages.

It is unfortunate for him that the economic problems of the Far East have encouraged other airlines to wing into BA's more lucrative routes with business class seats on offer at discounted prices and, apparently, found some people prepared to shun the price leader. He is convinced that Asian and Latin American businesses will soon be taking to the air again and that the interlopers will fly away, leaving BA with its prices intact and its profits ready to swell.

It is a brave strategy and yesterday the stock market gave the slenderest indication that it may be beginning to believe in it. The third-quarter figures took the company into the red, but not as deeply as analysts had feared, and there would have been a profit but for the effect of currency move-

ments on an aircraft financing deal. The cost-cutting drive, unlike most airlines, is coming in ahead of schedule.

He may now be feeling that he can spend a bit of time on his other job, as supremo of the Millennium Dome in Greenwich. That will sadly prevent him from joining other BA executives in the sky when 2000 dawns, but he has every confidence they will have a safe flight.

#### MoD has to play Russian roulette

**B**ritish Aerospace profited mightily in the 1980s from being seen as a strategic national plc. Its business was so bound up with government that it could safely be entrusted with other strategic national assets, such as Rover and Royal Ord-

## Bad air day for Ayling



### COMMENTARY by our City Editor

nance, which the Tories wanted to privatise but which could not stand on their own. As reward for playing this role, BAe got the businesses at bargain prices.

Royal Ordnance was prime supplier of ammunition and explosives to Her Majesty's forces, the most powerful in Europe. It was needed not least because the loyal Belgians would not supply us ammunition for the Falklands force. But the Ministry of Defence wanted it to compete on, as it were, an arm's-length basis, without guarantees of orders.

In the plan to sell the ammunition factories, there was to be a golden share to stop them being owned by foreigners. But as BAe was buying, this was not deemed necessary. BAe itself had just such a restriction on ownership. Such easily held assumptions did not stop BAe selling Rover for a bigger sum to BMW once

poisonous cashflow had turned into a desperate need for investment. Selling Rover into the "safe" foreign hands of BMW made industrial sense and was the key to BAe's financial recovery. Leaving the UK without a home-owned motor manufacturer was just an unhappy side-effect.

Still less can BAe be blamed for giving notice that it will sell or close any Royal Ordnance factories that have not been turned into property developments. The MoD has been using the world glut of ammunition to win a peace dividend for taxpayers by buying abroad. Orders for Royal Ordnance ammo have worse than halved. It is not viable.

In essence, however, BAe, like BMW, is now holding a gun to the Government's head. Give us orders or ask yourself if the plucky Belgians would supply material for another flare-up in

Ulster or intervention in Kosovo. The Longbridge saga will remind ministers that to be relaxed and civilised about foreign ownership of vital businesses leaves you impotent in your own house and wide open to blackmail. Europe's most powerful forces are no use without bullets.

#### What's bugging the accountants?

**W**hat is the difference between "reasonable" and "not unreasonable"? If you are an auditor, it could be £100,000 a year on professional indemnity insurance.

Yesterday's bulletin from the Auditing Practices Board offers a classic get-out clause for accountants fearful of the millennium bug. Accountants are concerned that the Financial Assistance statements they sign as an essential part of management buyouts, verifying that a company can meet its debts for the next 12 months, might look a little misleading if the bug hits the company and it goes bust in 2000. Aggressive in-

vestors might be tempted to start talking to lawyers about the accountants' negligence. With admirable foresight, the APB has rushed out a form of words to get around the possibility.

The auditors must ask the directors whether they think the bug will have a material impact on the company, its suppliers or its customers. If the response is no, then the auditors have to decide not whether this is "reasonable", because that would require them to spend a lot of time checking, but that it is "not unreasonable". The APB says this will require a "low level of inquiries", conducted from the perspective of an "informed layman".

Some may think an informed layman could often improve on the work of qualified auditors.

#### To the wall?

**S**TEPHEN WALLS has enjoyed a remarkable career. That it is not yet at an end is testimony to remarkable determination and very thick skin. Should he now get involved in a bid battle for Servisair, his opponents will find plenty of ammunition. Even his starting point, as a director of Servisair, raises questions over his reasons for rejecting Amey's bid. But the biggest question must be whether it is wise to want a company with Walls as a director.

### Tie Rack ex-chief returns

**N**IGEL McGINLEY, who resigned as chief executive of Tie Rack 12 months ago, has returned to his old job to try to rescue the retailer from its worst-ever year (Fraser Nelson writes).

Roy Bishko, Tie Rack's founder and chairman, who is to step back from daily management, said: "I told him we needed him because we work well together. While he was here, we never made a loss."

The appointment came as Tie Rack said it was heading for a loss that "will not exceed £7.5 million" – against City forecasts of a £4 million loss. However, City investors were more taken by Mr McGinley's return, marking the shares up 3p to 22.5p.

## Reuters warns of slower progress

BY RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

**R**EUTERS, the international news and information group, yesterday gave warning that lower revenue growth was likely this year, although savings from a reorganisation would also start to take effect.

Peter Job, chief executive, said that price increases introduced last month would be offset by a fall in new orders in the final quarter of last year as clients reacted to the crisis in emerging markets. The company also suffered a sharp setback in Russia and weak demand in Asia, with the exception of an encouraging performance in Japan.

Reuters announced a 7 per cent drop in pre-tax profits to £80 million for the year to December 31. Profits were struck

by a £50 million allowance for goodwill, after a change in accounting practice, and reflected a £78 million fall in interest after the return of £1.5 billion of capital to shareholders. Before currency costs, the pre-tax profits were up by 2 per cent.

Revenue rose by 5 per cent, to £3.03 billion, and operating profit rose 2 per cent.

Mr Job said: "We turned to our advantage the many ups and downs of 1998, translating them into a strong underlying performance, with operating profit comparable rates up 14 per cent."

The chief executive also expressed increasing confidence in the company's ability to "address the millennium issue" –

### Stoves hit by cooker imports

### Primesight falls to SMG for £35m

BY RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

**A**N INFLUX of fashionable Italian cookers from Smeg and Range Britannia has cut interim profits of Stoves, the Merseyside oven-maker, to their lowest for eight years (Fraser Nelson writes).

The company said that the sustained strength of sterling is helping its European rivals to pitch themselves at much lower prices to Britain's richer householders.

Pre-tax profits plunged to £404,000 in the half to November 30, from £2.83 million last time. Earnings per share were 1.2p (7.6p). The interim payout is held at 2.2p.

Stoves is now trying to cut production costs by up to 10 per cent so it can reduce the price tags of up to £2,000 on its cookers, and is to begin an advertising campaign.

Tempus, page 24

SCOTTISH MEDIA GROUP yesterday made its first foray south of the border with a recommended £35 million cash offer for Primesight, the billboard poster group.

The deal, also Scottish Media's first move into outdoor advertising, follows last year's unsuccessful raid on VCI, the video publisher, for which it was outbid by Kingfisher.

Primesight specialises in selling advertising space, mainly on illuminated 1.2m by 1.8m (six-sheet) panels. At the end of last year the company had 10 per cent of the six-sheet market in the UK with about 5,700 poster panels.

Andrew Flanagan, chief executive of SMG, which owns *The Herald* newspaper in Glasgow and the Scottish and Grampian ITV franchises said: "Primesight is a good fit

to business and a useful addition to the group."

SMG intends to accelerate Primesight's expansion programme, with Scotland an obvious target.

SMG has been looking for opportunities to expand into the English media market for some time as further significant media acquisitions in Scotland are difficult because of monopoly problems.

The company reported pre-tax, pre-exceptional profits for the six months ended November 30 of £6.6 million, down from £8.4 million. Turnover rose from £70 million to £79 million. Earnings were down to 7.2p a share (9.5p). The interim dividend of 2.85p per share was maintained.

### Profit dip at health care firm

WESTMINSTER Health Care, the nursing home operator, yesterday blamed a shortage of nurses, and the need to employ more agency staff, for its poor results (Manus Costello writes).

John Lockhart, chairman, said rising staff costs meant that the outlook for the nursing home sector in the UK "remains difficult".

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Tempus, page 24

Under the Atlantic is a fibre optic cable that carries over 1 million calls at any one time. Whose cable? Whose do you think?

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This year, Cable & Wireless' Gemini joint venture laid the final stretch of the newest and most advanced fibre-optic cable under the Atlantic Ocean.

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## STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

# Speculators turn focus on packaging specialist

IF THE share price is anything to go by, a bid for David S Smith is virtually all wrapped-up.

The paper and packaging specialist was one of the best performers among the second-tierers with a rise of 9p, or almost 8 per cent, to 124p as 3.3 million shares changed hands. David S Smith is not a newcomer to speculation. In fact, it is one of the longest-running takeover sugars in the City and is certainly looking vulnerable to unwelcome attention.

The shares had collapsed from a peak of 252p last year as a strong pound and deteriorating market conditions took their toll. The price hit a 12-year low of 87p last month, at which point the speculators began piling in. At these levels, the group is capitalised at £388 million.

Share prices generally lost an early lead and were later hit by a sell-off in the financial futures market. However, prices closed above their worts levels despite another setback for the Dow Jones industrial average in early trading.

The FTSE 100 index ended 55p down at 5,779.9 while the FTSE 250 index closed 27.9 off at 5,177.5. More than a billion shares changed hands.

A favourable trading statement brought the buyers flocking back for SmithKline Beecham, up 33p to 831.5p, and spilled over into Glaxo Wellcome, 46p better at £19.43.

Utility companies also attracted their fair share of attention on yield considerations. Severn Trent was up 22p to 42.2p, United Utilities rose 13p to 80.3p, National Power grew 8p to 50p, and Thames Water put on 14p to £11.13.

FJK clawed back an early loss to finish just 1p lighter at 174.4p, after briefly touching 169p. Takeover talk remains rife. First Leisure edged ahead 11p to 220p on renewed talk of a bid from Bass, down 31p to 818.5p.

The sell-off in Enterprise Oil, up 4p at 238.5p, has been overtaken. That is the conclusion of Commerzbank Global Equities, which has moved from "hold" in "buy" and set a 12-month fair value target for the shares of 350p. Earlier this week, speculation intensified that Enterprise may be close to agreeing terms of a merger with rival Lasko, down 2p to 116p. But time may be running out. BG, down 6p to



Peter Job, chief executive of Reuters, the shares of which fell 33p to 833p in response to a 7 per cent drop in profits

350p, is said to have taken a shine to Lasko while Italy's ENI may want Enterprise.

WestLB Panmure, the broker, pulled the rug from under Bank of Scotland, down 20p to 799p. It has cut its recommendation for the shares from "buy" to "trading sell".

There was a lukewarm response to full-year results from Reuters, down 33p to



833p. Profits, as expected, fell 7 per cent to £580 million with Peter Job, chief executive, blaming the downturn in emerging markets. Curiously enough, the shares have been a strong market this year with the group benefiting from its tag as an Internet play.

City Centre Restaurants continues to bump along the bottom with the price shading

833p. Profits, as expected, fell 7 per cent to £580 million with Peter Job, chief executive, blaming the downturn in emerging markets. Curiously enough, the shares have been a strong market this year with the group benefiting from its tag as an Internet play.

Only last year, the US tobacco producers agreed to pay Medicaid hundreds of millions of dollars in compensation.

Litigation in this country is not as advanced as in the US. Buyers say this case may not be the end of the matter, but caution that the fight could drag on for years to come before any settlement, if any, is agreed.

BAT is no stranger to litiga-

tion over cancer claims. It has been fighting them in the US, along with other US tobacco producers, for years.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt rose 40p to £18.70 as 29,000 contracts were completed. Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 rose 60p to £150.65. By contrast, Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was left 4p adrift at £107.50.

**NEW YORK:** Wall Street sagged as worries about overpriced shares triggered fresh selling. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 78.52 points to 9,212.59.

Keep an eye on Easyscreen, up 55p to 620p, as a further 50,521 share changed hands. The group, which has developed a front-end computerised trading system for use with derivatives trading, came to market last month at 170p.

**GILT-EDGED:** Short-dated issues were left nursing small losses on the day as hopes of a further cut in interest rates next month sufficed a setback. It followed a stronger than expected survey from the British Retail Consortium.

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Given the fact that the

## MAJOR INDICES

	New York (midday)
Dow Jones	9,212.59 (+7.55)
S&P Composite	1,329.41 (+15.34)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	13,902.66 (+89.85)
Hong Kong:	9,244.49 (+104.89)
Amsterdam:	
Euro Index	518.06 (+10.18)
Sydney:	2,880.70 (+9.30)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	4,042.35 (+1.12-2.71)
Singapore:	1,306.37 (+1.30-3.51)
Brussels:	3,385.19 (+61.98)
Paris:	4,033.49 (+1.15-5.57)
CAC-40	1,344.50 (+1.23-2.79)
Zurich:	
SMX Gen	1,344.50 (+1.23-2.79)
London:	
FTSE 100	5,841.1 (+2.49)
FTSE 250	5,779.9 (+5.80)
FTSE 150	5,177.5 (-27.39)
FTSE Euro 100	2,759.1 (+34.41)
FTSE All-Share	2,684.52 (-56.53)
FTSE General	2,670.03 (-25.23)
FTSE Financials	2,652.03 (-27.23)
FTSE Govt Secs	157.98 (+0.26)
S&P 500	115.58 (+0.18)
SEAS Xetra	1,069.47
US:	1,365.61 (+0.08)
UK:	1,359.04 (+0.08)
Europe:	1,372.99
Euro on £ (mid day close) (4pm)	100.6 (1.09)
FTT	1,164.1 Dec (2.6%) Jan 1987 = 100
FTF	1,152.4 Dec (2.6%) Jan 1987 = 100

shares have doubled in value since October, it is hard to believe.

Reuters is the same company. True, the successful euro transition allayed fears about the impact of the millennium bug. It is also understandable that, at £5, the market seriously undervalued the strength of the Reuters name, its products and its financial standing.

## RECENT ISSUES

	AM VCT	100
Abbey Nat Dublin Inv	68	
BFS Credit Inc & Gilt Cap	98	
BFS Credit Inc & Gilt Inv	120	
Clare Bros Dev VCT	103	
Gender Project VCT	103	
Enstar En Zero Div Pl	105	
Enstar En Zero Div Pl	98	
Enstar Fin 4M VCT	100	
Enstar Fin 4M VCT	103	
Enstar Fin 4M VCT	103	
Enstar Fin 4M VCT	97	
Enstar Fin 4M VCT	106	

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Ambient Media np [49]

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Reuters



## Equities lose early lead

**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	% CHG	PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES							
445 455	105	100	Affordable	121	-	-	12.1
475 485	105	100	Alpha Corp	121	-	-	12.1
755 765	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
1055 1065	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
1255 1265	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
1355 1365	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
1455 1465	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
1555 1565	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
1655 1665	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
1755 1765	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
1855 1865	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
2055 2065	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
2155 2165	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
2255 2265	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
2355 2365	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
2455 2465	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
2555 2565	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
2655 2665	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
2755 2765	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
2855 2865	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
2955 2965	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
3055 3065	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
3155 3165	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
3255 3265	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
3355 3365	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
3455 3465	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
3555 3565	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
3655 3665	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
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3855 3865	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
3955 3965	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
4055 4065	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
4155 4165	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
4255 4265	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
4355 4365	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
4455 4465	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
4555 4565	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
4655 4665	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
4755 4765	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
4855 4865	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
4955 4965	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
5055 5065	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
5155 5165	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
5255 5265	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
5355 5365	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
5455 5465	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
5555 5565	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
5655 5665	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
5755 5765	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
5855 5865	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
5955 5965	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
6055 6065	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
6155 6165	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
6255 6265	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
6355 6365	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
6455 6465	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
6555 6565	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
6655 6665	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
6755 6765	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
6855 6865	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
6955 6965	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
7055 7065	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
7155 7165	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
7255 7265	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
7355 7365	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
7455 7465	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
7555 7565	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
7655 7665	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
7755 7765	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
7855 7865	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
7955 7965	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
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8455 8465	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
8555 8565	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
8655 8665	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
8755 8765	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
8855 8865	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
8955 8965	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
9055 9065	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
9155 9165	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
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9455 9465	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
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9655 9665	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
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9955 9965	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
10055 10065	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
10155 10165	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
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11255 11265	105	100	Alpha Spec	121	-	-	12.1
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Tony Dawe introduces a two-page report on the drive to cut down on fuel consumption by making our homes more cost-effective

# Why bills are going through the roof

**W**ith snow falling across much of Britain this week, the nation's fuel bills will be rising as we all strive to keep warm.

Turning up the central heating, putting more coal on the fire and running fan heaters in the colder parts of the home are all essential as the temperature drops below zero outside.

Yet few people realise that they can balance this inevitable increase in their bills with a few economy measures.

Households in Britain are estimated to waste £6.5 billion every year on energy, equivalent to £278 for each household or 100 times the cost of combating the current cold snap. The estimate comes from the Energy Savings Trust, set up by the Government to promote energy efficiency. Its research also found that most householders are ignorant about the savings they can achieve.

The trust is now trying to get the message across with a series of leaflets, an energy efficiency hotline and website and free do-it-yourself home energy checks. Saving energy in the home will also form part of a new £7 million campaign by the Environment Department.

Eoin Lees, the trust's chief executive, says: "By becoming more energy-efficient, the average household could reduce fuel bills by up to 40 per cent. Our initiative has been created to help to build awareness of the financial and environmental benefits of being wise with energy around the home."

Alan Meale, the Energy Efficiency Minister, believes that simple economies around the home will help the whole environment. "If you burn energy when you don't need to and run water and waste it, you are not only building up extra bills but contributing to the demise of our society," he says.

"We must get the message across that saving energy is common sense, good business practice and costs you less."



Meale new initiative

"With the help of manufacturers, we have reduced the standby usage by appliances on standby for a day from ten to six," Mr Meale says. "With further co-operation and the help of the public, we aim to get the figure down to a single watt."

For more significant savings, the trust reports that an investment of between £250 and £500 could reduce householders' energy bills by up to a quarter. Grants of up to £400 are available.

Condensing boilers, for example, are the most efficient in producing warmth and hot water as they convert an average 85 per cent of fuel into heat. They cost £300 more than an ordinary boiler but an Energy Efficiency grant of £200 will help to reduce the investment, which should save more than £100 a year in fuel bills.

Cavity wall insulation costs an average £550 but a £200 grant is also available to help with the cost of installing it, a measure which the trust claims cut heat loss by up to 60 per cent and saves a third of fuel costs.

Building societies have discovered that helping borrowers to save money on fuel bills has become a way of attracting business. The Woolwich offers an energy saver mortgage which includes a package of ef-

ficient domestic appliances and energy-saving lightbulbs, while Norwich & Peterborough's green mortgage includes a 1 per cent discount for two years and £1,000 cashback towards home improvements.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme grants are also available to people on benefit and have helped to improve nearly three million homes since they were introduced in 1991. "Each household helped has seen its fuel costs reduced by an average of £45 a year, with greater savings for those with cavity wall or loft insulation installed," Mr Meale says.

The minister is concerned, however, that the scheme is not reaching the poorest members of society who cannot afford to heat their homes properly let alone afford efficiency measures, and has launched a new initiative to help them.

"People in the poverty trap burn a lot of fuel because they want to get warm quickly but much of the heat escapes through the roof," he says. "They do not have the choices which other people have. They buy second-hand white goods, which are the least efficient."

The poster will be part of a £7 million "Are You Doing Your Bit?" campaign by the Environment Department to persuade everyone to do something towards saving fuel and helping the world.

The Energy Saving Trust, set up by the Government to promote energy efficiency, says: "It has never been easier to save money on fuel bills. Do you know, for instance, that in most homes lighting accounts for 10 to 15 per cent of the electricity bill? And what about letterboxes and keyholes? Did you know that they could save you money?"

Alan Meale, the Energy Efficiency Minister, adds: "If we can persuade people to do something as simple as switching off electrical appliances at the mains and buying a long-life lightbulb which lasts for years and uses less wattage, it will get them in the mood to think

about other ways of saving energy and of buying efficient products."

A thought bubble in the blue sky above the children proclaims: "This bit of the atmosphere was helped by Mrs Rummy of Carlisle who turns off lights which save energy and helps fight global warming."

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Stroll around the home tonight and identify ten simple measures which cost nothing but could

start an energy-saving habit that could save more than £100 a year. Just drawing the curtains so the heat doesn't escape through the windows can save £15 a year in the average three-bedroom semi-detached house. Turning out lights on leaving a room and switching off the television instead of leaving it on standby (unless it is a digital TV) are obvious ways of saving a few pounds. Adjusting the heating will achieve more substantial savings.

Turn down the central heating thermostat by 1°C and the fuel bill will be reduced by between £15 and £30 a year. Set the hot-water cylinder thermostat at 60°C.

It is the kitchen, however, which offers the greatest opportunity for cutting energy costs. Put just enough water for your needs in the kettle instead of filling it to the brim; choose the correct size pan for the food and cooker and keep lids on while cooking

and, if you have a dishwasher, run it on a low-temperature programme. The refrigerator can be a real money waster. If you place it next to a cooker or boiler, it will have to work harder.

Don't leave the fridge door open for longer than necessary and defrost it regularly to keep it running efficiently. Both teams on a recent edi-

tion of University Challenge

were baffled by the question: if you put cold water or boiling water in the freezer unit, which will freeze first?

TONY DAWE

Now green PCs are really cool

**T**he rapid growth in demand for the latest technology has made the energy used by personal computers and other office equipment one of the fastest-growing sources of electricity consumption in businesses and homes.

It accounts for more than 7 per cent of the electricity used in offices in America, yet much of it is wasted because equipment sits idle for long periods throughout the day as well as overnight and at weekends.

To tackle this problem, the US Environmental Protection Agency launched the Energy Star programme in partnership with manufacturers so that consumers could identify energy-efficient products. The mark has become a globally recognised seal of approval for environmentally aware hardware and now appears on products such as monitors, printers and scanners.

Most of the world's largest PC manufacturers are well aware of the financial as well as environmental benefits of supplying "green" computers.

IBM has a dedicated Engineering Centre for Environmentally Conscious Products and is discussing ways in which to market more aggressively the environmental aspect of their products to consumers. Compaq, Gateway and most other recognised PC brands are Energy Star partners.

Such computers still vary enormously in their power consumption: some use as little as 1.5 watts in "sleep" mode, while others are close to the 30-watt limit. Laptops are the most energy-efficient because they have to survive for long periods using only batteries. Most new desktop computers now have some built-in power-saving measures.

Systems that have been upgraded to include large numbers of components consume the most power. Many conventional PCs have power supplies rated at more than 250 watts and these waste more energy "ticking over" than less powerful ones. As most home PCs are seldom upgraded, they could happily run on a power supply of half the size.

LINTON DAWE

## Save and help the world

Using energy more efficiently has a beneficial effect on global warming as well as our wallets

which is quite adequate for bathing and washing, and a similar saving will be achieved. Just making sure the hot water is not running before the plug is put in the basin will save pounds.

It has never been easier to save money on fuel bills

and, if you have a dishwasher, run it on a low-temperature programme. The refrigerator can be a real money waster. If you place it next to a cooker or boiler, it will have to work harder.

Even keyholes and letterboxes can let in draughts and let out heat. Put a cover over the keyhole and fit a nylon brush seal or a sprung flap behind the letterbox but warn the paperboy first.

ALL NEW MIELE WASHING MACHINES FEATURE THE REVOLUTIONARY HANDWASH PROGRAMME FOR WOOLLENS AND SILKS

AH! AAH!

TOP OF THE RANGE MACHINES ACHIEVE THE RATING OF AAA FOR ENERGY CONSUMPTION, WASH PERFORMANCE AND SPIN EFFICIENCY

Miele machines save you time and money.

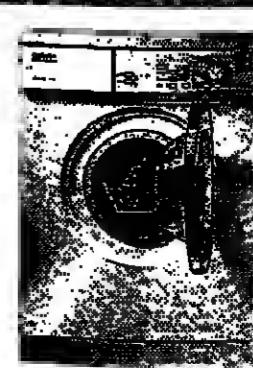
The revolutionary Handwash programme does away with the time-consuming chore of handwashing, and actually washes delicate woollens more gently than you can by hand.

Any item with a handwash label - cashmere, angora and mohair, not to

mention silk and lace - can be washed completely safely thanks to the sophisticated Novotronic controls.

What's more, all Miele washing machines achieve "A" ratings for energy consumption and wash performance, and top of the range machines have "A" for spin efficiency too.

Trust Miele to lighten the load.



**Miele**

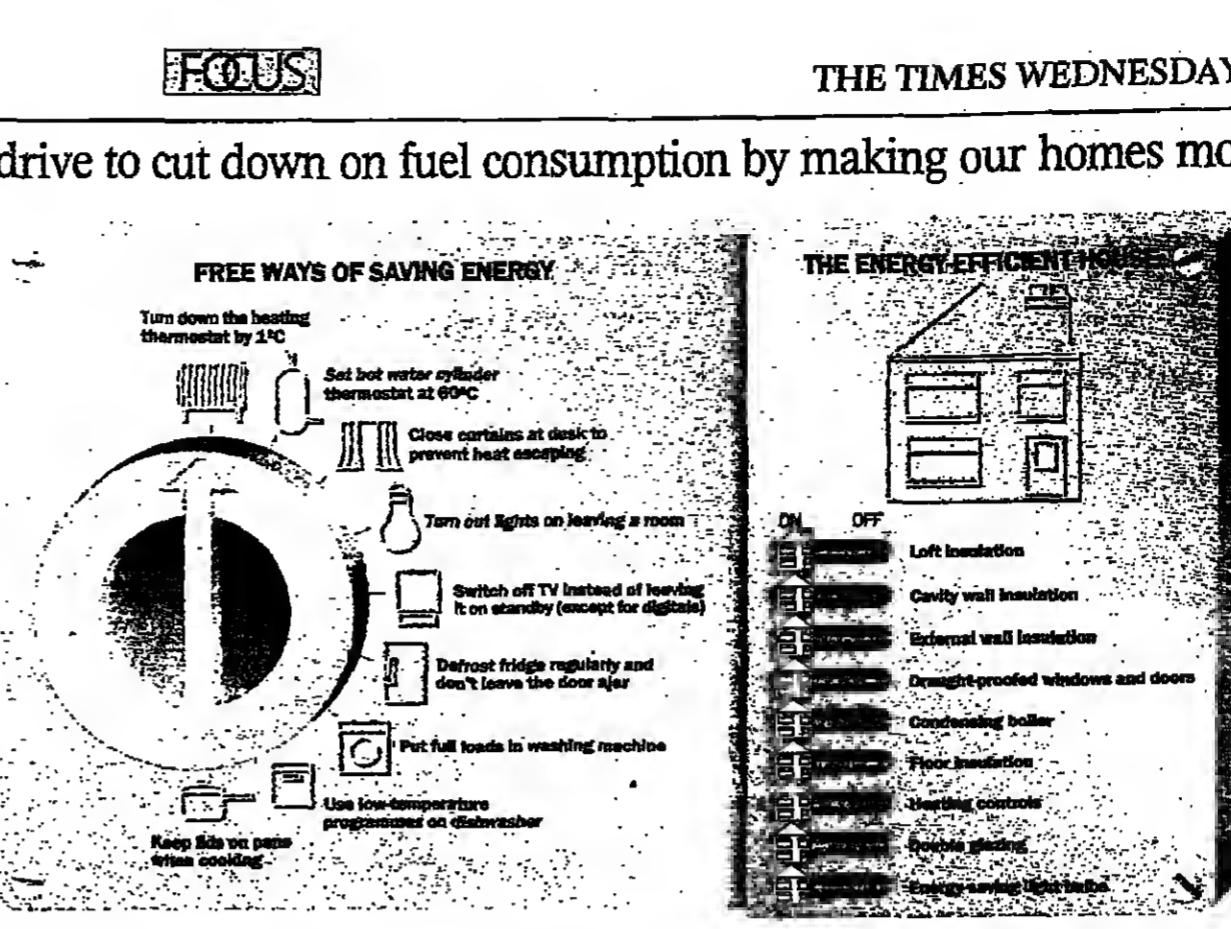
Anything else is a compromise

FOR A FREE DIY HOME ENERGY CHECK, CALL 0345 277 200

**Albert**

This is the simplest bit of DIY ever. You just fill in our free questionnaire and send it to us. In return, we'll send you a list of ways to make your home more energy efficient. And what does the great Albert think of this? He gives us a big tick and a pat on the back. Stop it. Alib, you're making us blush.

For your questionnaire, call now.





## Court of Appeal

Law Report February 10 1999

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 10 1999

**Copyright dispute over Dutch building**

**Pearce v Ove Arup Partnership Ltd and Others**  
Before Lord Justice Roch, Lord Justice Chadwick and Lord Justice May  
[Judgment January 21]

An English court was not required to refuse to entertain a claim in respect of alleged infringements of Dutch copyright on the basis that the infringements were not actionable torts under English law.

The Court of Appeal so stated in a reserved judgment when dismissing an application by Gareth Pearce to adduce further evidence but allowing his appeal against a decision of Mr Justice Lloyd (77 Times March 17, 1997; [1997] Ch 29).

Mr Pearce had complained of breaches of what he claimed to be his copyright as author of drawings created when an architectural student for a town hall in Docklands which was never built.

He claimed that Mr Rem Koolhaas, an architect, and the Office for Metropolitan Architecture, of which he was director, took copies of his drawings and used them in substantial part in designing the Kunsthall in Rotterdam. Ove Arup Partnership Ltd was the civil engineering firm retained for construction of the Kunsthall, owned by the city of Rotterdam.

The judge had declined to strike out allegations of infringement of Dutch copyright on the ground that they were not justiciable under English law, but accepted that on the facts alleged the claim was bound to fail and struck out both his claim against Ove Arup, Mr Koolhaas, Office for Metropolitan Architecture and the city of Rotterdam. Mr Pearce appealed.

Mr Koolhaas, OMA and Rotterdam, as respondents, argued that the judge's order should be affirmed on the additional ground that the alleged infringements of Dutch copyright against them were not actionable torts under English law.

Miss Julia Clark for Mr Pearce; Ms Heather Lawrence for the first defendant; Mr Christopher Floyd, QC and Mr Richard Hazon for the second to fourth defendants.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH, giving the judgment of the court, said that the first issue was abuse of process. In striking out the plaintiff's

claim on the basis that it was speculative, the judge in essence decided that the claim was bound to fail because no court could ever be persuaded to draw the necessary inference that copies had been made.

The plaintiff applied to adduce further evidence before their Lordships including a portfolio of 18 pairs of drawings, each pair with part of the Docklands drawings overlaid with a transparency of an allegedly comparable part of the Kunsthall drawings.

That application, subject to one gloss, would be refused as the evidence was, or could readily have been, available for the hearing before Mr Justice Lloyd.

The point was that their Lordships considered Mr Pearce's portfolio of drawings was receivable, not as additional evidence, but as an explanation of counsel's submissions on his behalf for which leave was not needed.

The wrong of which he complained had been committed outside England, he had also established that the English court, applying its own conflict of laws rules, would regard his complaint as giving rise to a cause of action that would be recognisable and entitle him to relief.

The judge accepted that, but for the Brussels Convention, an action in the English court which was founded on an alleged breach of Dutch copyright law had to be struck out as non-justiciable on either of two grounds:

First, because the rule in *British South Africa Company v The Companhia da Moçambique* (1929) AC 503 required that a claim for breach of a foreign statutory intellectual property right must be regarded as local and so could not be entertained by an English court.

Second, because such a claim could not satisfy the double-actionability rule established from *Phillips v Eye* (1970) LR 6 QB 1.

But he was satisfied that to apply those rules in a case where the English court was given jurisdiction by articles 2 and 6(1) of the Brussels Convention to entertain a claim based on the infringement, by acts done in Holland, of a local right conferred in Holland by Dutch law.

The relevant inquiry was whether English law permitted the English court, in the present context, to entertain a claim based on the infringement, by acts done in Holland, of a local right conferred in Holland by Dutch law.

That inquiry had to be answered by reference to English private international law rules; in particular,

by reference to those rules which, in the light of the provisions of the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1992 and the Convention which, by section 20(1) of that Act, had the force of law in the UK, governed the resolution of disputes in civil and commercial matters between persons domiciled to the contracting states party to those conventions.

It was accepted that the English court had jurisdiction against all the defendants; see articles 2 and 6(1) of the Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters, signed at Brussels in 1968.

Nevertheless, it was submitted that jurisdiction was one thing; justiciability or actionability another. It was not enough for the plaintiff to establish that he could bring proceedings against the defendants in the *Moçambique* case.

It was necessary to understand what the distinction between local and transitory actions was. From an analysis of the reasoning in the *Moçambique* case it was clear that the question whether the English courts should entertain an action for trespass to foreign land was treated as one of justicability.

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## GALLERIES

**Is this man  
the future of  
jazz? Billie  
Holiday**

# THE TIMES ARTS

## THEATRE

Copenhagen  
comes into  
the West End

PAGE 33



## Scattering with the enemy

Jazz singers are boldly crossing over into pop territory. Clive Davis applauds

Last year the whole world — Michael Tilson Thomas, Cliff Richard and all — queued up to celebrate George Gershwin's centenary. And rightly so. In the jazz realm, on the other hand, every year is a Gershwin centenary. His melodies run through the core of the repertoire, forming a musical DNA in blue. Tonight, as on every other night, someone somewhere will be scattering a chorus of *Fascinating Rhythm* or turning the lights down low with *The Man I Love*.

Without the artistry of jazz singers, many of the tunes we now think of as classics might have survived only as period-pieces. Countless listeners have been won over to the work of Kern, Porter and Berlin not by extravagant Broadway revivals but by Ella Fitzgerald's timeless series of *Songbook* albums.

Even though Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan and Carmen McRae have passed on, the Nineties are a good time in which to hear standards in many guises. Once neglected artists such as the ultra-laid-back American, Shirley Horn, have enjoyed a professional rebirth. The Canadian newcomer Diana Krall has justifiably won acclaim for her Nat Cole-inspired trio. New York cabaret diva Mary Cleere Maran regularly attracts full houses here with her sophisticated and waspish shows. And next month (March 11) another American, Michael Feinstein, brings his own winning blend of archivist's enthusiasm and pianistic skill to the Barbican.

But if the past is in safe-hands, the music of the present occupies a more ambiguous position. You can hardly put all the blame on the jazz singers. Given the choice between *Someone To Watch Over Me* or an anthem from *Whistle Down The Wind*, it is fair to assume that they will choose the oldie every time.

The changing face of the pop industry has played its part too. With the rise of the singer-songwriter the nature of popular song has changed dramatically. Instead of the elegantly structured 32-bar products of Tin Pan Alley, tunes have grown more personal and more direct. The rhythmic and verbal subtleties on which jazz singers thrive are often conspicuously absent.

But not always. The distinctive albums that Claire Martin has released have furnished a rich example of what a discerning vocalist can achieve with the addition of contemporary material. Whether covering



Claire Martin: 'Modern songs speak to me more directly than standards. I want my records slipped in with k.d. lang's, not lost behind Carmen McRae's'

Tom Waits's *Old Boyfriends* or Laura Nyro's *Buy And Sell*, the London-born vocalist has shown how much can be gained by looking beyond the tried and tested.

Martin has not deserted the jazz camp entirely. You still hear her at concerts with the BBC Big Band. But her new album *Take My Heart* (released on Monday by Linn) finds her moving even further into "enemy territory". Her producer Paul Stacey has sculpted a glossier pop backdrop. A side-man with Oasis, he has even persuaded Noel Gallagher to bring his acoustic guitar along for the gentle, countrified version of the Beatles' *Help!*

Martin realises she may annoy jazz traditionalists, but she sees nothing wrong in seeking inspiration beyond the authorised canon. "It's a myth that the new songs aren't out there," she says. "You've only got to hear people like Phoebe Snow, Elvis Costello and Joni Mitchell to know that good jazz is still being written."

"I love standards, but modern songs speak to me more directly. Language has changed. So have relationships. A songwriter today is bound to be different from Rodgers and Hammerstein. If you say you're happy and gay now it has a different meaning."

Ironically, she points to Krall's success as a prime reason for the contemporary mood of *Take My Heart*. "She's lovely, but it made me realise I didn't want to go down that road. I want my records to be slipped in with k.d. lang instead of being lost behind Carmen McRae's."

This spring Martin will be on the road singing Burt Bacharach with Ian Shaw, another R&B-influenced jazz singer who enjoys wandering off the beaten path. Shaw, who has been winning over those Americans who think all Brits sound like Julie Andrews, has a new album of his own out shortly. The lyrics of the old tune, *In A New York Minute*, come from the pen of the expatriate writer Fran Landesman. Other less than conventional

tracks include soul singer Bill Withers's *Grandma's Hands*. Shaw cites Shania Twain and the late Jeff Buckley as two outstanding members of the new wave of songwriters. And although he feels that new tunes "have to breathe for a year or so" before he is ready to tackle them, he has his eye on a song from the last Portishead disc. As the producer Bob Belden wrote in *Downbeat* magazine during a discussion of musicians' crossover tastes: "Jazz musicians have adapted pop material since they thought they could get away with it — except now."

There is always the danger that if artists chase a bigger audience they will end up compromising their values and creating glib fillers that satisfy neither camp. And pessimists would argue that jazz and pop have grown so far apart over the last 30 years that no common ground exists any more. Like anyone else, Ella Fitzgerald made some sub-standard albums, but you cannot imagine that she would ever have got round to adding *Like A Virgin* to her programme.

But there could well be many potential jazz fans waiting to be won over by a singer who connects with their own tastes. Cassandra Wilson, for one, has achieved success with folk-tinged recordings that weave together sources as diverse as U2, Joni Mitchell and bluesman Robert Johnson.

Instrumentalists continue to seek the unexpected, too. Pianist Brad Mehldau won praise for his album *Songs* by mixing evergreens with *Riverman* by cult singer-songwriter Nick Drake. The same number opens Claire Martin's album. Brave minds think alike.

## Axes bold as love

## POP

**Billie Cote  
Madder Rose**

**Elaine Cope  
'Romping... Exuberant'**

**Sheila Hancock  
'Superb'**

**Queen Elizabeth Hall**

If, as some forecasters say, rock's tide is turning back towards American guitar bands, it will be a belated bonus for Madder Rose. The New York group has endured a switchback career since forming in 1991, with a spell in the next-big-thing enclosure followed by a fallow period.

Fears of their demise have been allayed through the good offices of the independent London label Cooking Vinyl, which two weeks ago released *Tragic Magic*, Madder Rose's splendid 1997 album. Previously only granted release in America and Japan, it now contains two new songs as an appetiser for their next main-course release.

But the crowd that filled the Garage clearly had fond memories of the band's formative years. *Car Song* was an early reminder of the fetching juxtaposition of Billy Cote's distinctive guitar shapes and Mary Lorson's crystalline vocals. Indeed, for much of the set the armoured tank of Cote's axe effects was a deceptive cover for the baby driver sitting inside gently steering the melodies.

In their quieter moments, they exuded some of the delicate intensity of the Cowboy Junkies, Lorson's breezy tones making her a less mercurial version of the Junkies' Margo Timmins. *Tailbird*, one of the new tracks on *Tragic Magic*, boasted a killer guitar motif from Cote that waltzed through the piece like a swing from the Old West. On the other, *Narciso*, live limitations prevented them from fully recreating the dreamy harmonies of the recorded version, but it still sounded like a group taking ever bolder steps away from base camp.

Rather like an English version of Stevie Nicks, Tzuke's commanding stage presence was both open-hearted and carefully self-contained. At 42 the long, honey-blond hair remains untailed and the voice has lost none of its cool, plaintive appeal.

The somewhat restrained tone of the first set was established with a string of songs in a classic soft-rock mould.

They were hamstrung by something as mundane as a broken string, and all momentum was lost as Lorson made a drawn-out but unsuccessful attempt at retuning. In the end, she cast the offending instrument aside for a hands-free version of their early single *Beautiful John*, and sounded just fine anyway.

PAUL SEXTON

## Dot commerce

**Judie Tzuke  
Queen Elizabeth Hall**

Tonight, *Fuel Injection* and *Both Alone*, all from her current album, *Secret Agent*, offered a familiar mix of romantically windswept melodies firmly but discreetly shored up by Tzuke's four-piece backing band.

After the interval the musicians were let off the leash, and the guitarist David P. Goodes forged some spectacularly forceful solos during *Let Me Be The Pearl* and *Bring The Rain*, while various guest backing singers, including Tzuke's 11-year-old daughter Bailey, contributed to a dauntingly intense encore of *Billy*.

Tzuke, meanwhile, sang with her customary poise and grace, her voice an instrument of icy allure, whether negotiating the siren-charm melody of *Stay With Me Till Dawn*, the stark, Gothic harmonies of *Mother* or the more lighthearted mood of *One Day I Will Live In France*.

DAVID SINCLAIR

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## GALLERIES

The rise of McQueen

# Films that are all about Steve

**VISUAL ART:** Like his namesake, the artist Steve McQueen risks life and limb for his latest films, now at the ICA. Richard Cork reports

**S**teve McQueen is building a 70ft brick wall when I meet him at the ICA, where his keenly awaited one-man show has just opened. Spanning the entire length of the narrow Concourse Gallery, always an awkward place to display art, the wall transforms the space with its forbidding bulk. McQueen mounts a ladder and begins placing pieces of smashed glass in fresh cement along the top.

"I'm hoping that the wall will be scribbled on," he says with a subversive smile. "If it's not covered in graffiti by the end of the show, I'll be disappointed." Visitors to McQueen's show can also spin themselves into uneasiness on his sculptural chrome funfair roundabout. But McQueen's lightheartedness does not entirely mask the tension he feels, staging his first major British exhibition of films, sculpture and photography. Shown extensively abroad since his debut in a mixed ICA survey in 1995, the ebullient 29-year-old is already widely regarded as an outstanding young artist. So far, however, McQueen has enjoyed greater acclaim abroad than in his native London. "I get a better response in the US," he admits. "maybe because black artists

are more noticeable over there and gain a broader acceptance."

Talking about his student years, McQueen soon makes clear that it was a difficult period. At Chelsea School of Art, he painted and "did a lot of drawing, but they didn't have any equipment for film". Even at pace-setting Goldsmiths College, where he went on to study in the early 1990s, he had to "beg, steal and borrow from the film department. Goldsmiths was a tricky time: you had to find your own way. It was only when I saw a contemporary show at the Whitney, during a visit to New York in 1993, that the wide variety of possibilities in art really blew me away, like an explosion with fragments flying off in different directions."

Already, McQueen was fascinated by the potential of film as an artist's medium. "I was a zombie for foreign films," he says, remembering in particular the impact of a John Cassavetes season in 1992. "I loved the intimacy of his films, their changing moods, and the feeling that you never knew what was coming next." This fluidity and unpredictable excitement characterised the two films he showed at the ICA's *Mirage: Enigma of Race, Difference and Desire* in 1995.

Both were silent and black

and white, like so many of the early movies he admires. They stood out with impressive conviction in this large international exhibition.

"I didn't want to do *Mirage* at first," he confesses. "It was an all-black show, but that's never been an issue for me and I said no. But I didn't have a dealer, and nobody else was interested in my work. So I had to go back to the ICA."

**O**ne of his films, *Bear*, was subsequently bought by the Tate Gallery. At once threatening and playful, this Bacon-like confrontation between two naked black men has a dramatic, improvised flow that still typifies some of McQueen's recent work. The principal film in his new show is just as enigmatic, even

though McQueen has now moved on to colour, a triple screen and — for the first time — sound. Called *Drumroll*, it records the giddy journey of an oil barrel pushed by a pink-coated McQueen through the streets of New York. Different viewpoints from the drum are projected alongside each other, with dizzying glimpses of pedestrians, traffic, skyscrapers and the artist himself. The soundtrack adds to the onslaught with its cacophonous fragments of drum rattle, car din, startled comments from passers-by and McQueen's reiterated "Excuse me, please" as he hurtles along. "It's posh Manhattan," he says, "a very interesting piece of real estate, so damn expensive. But the film is more to do with economy of movement, the wheel, oil, and taking the city — anyone can do it."

McQueen first went to New York when he was six years old. "Most of my family live in the US, either in Brooklyn or Miami, and I've considered moving to New York myself. But I didn't think I'd survive there; for artists, it's like an elephant's graveyard." McQueen's other new film at the ICA, *Deadpan*, pays a highly dramatic homage to a celebrated slapstick moment from Buster Keaton's movie *Steamboat Bill Jr.* Commissioned by the Museum of Modern Art in New York, where McQueen held a solo exhibition in 1997, it centres on the collapse of a newly built house. McQueen stands beside it, and looks as if he will be fatally injured. Instead, an open window in the facade descends directly on him, leaving the artist uncannily upright and untouched. We see the miraculous event several times over, from various vantage points and at different speeds.

McQueen, the very image of

the defiant survivor, remains extraordinarily still and impassive throughout, even though he must have dreaded filming such a potentially lethal sequence. *Deadpan* is all about that wait, about passing through the body," he says, before pointing out: "I'm framed by the window frame and by the institution where my work is shown."

A restless individual, Mc-

Queen likes to move on. Two years ago, he decamped with his Dutch partner to Amsterdam. Their child was born there recently, and he cannot imagine ever returning to London. "I don't like it here any more," he explains. "I was getting into a routine, and I love the idea that nobody knows me in Amsterdam. The living conditions are great, especially for kids."

Compared with London,

doesn't he find Amsterdam

quieter?

"Don't forget that I grew up in Ealing," he says with a wry grin. "Anyway, it's not important to me to live in an artist's milieu. I've never liked groups — they remind me too much of joining the Boy Scouts. Even though I'm a Catholic, and definitely an English guy, I'm open and changing, not stuck in a particular identity."

The key, for McQueen, lies

in his art. "It enables you to work things out in public, creating your own world. Otherwise you're powerless; it would be terrible."

• Steve McQueen at the ICA (0171-930 0493) until March 21



"Even though I'm a Catholic, and definitely an English guy, I'm open and changing, not stuck in a particular identity" — Steve McQueen reflects on his success at his ICA exhibition

# ARTS

## MUSIC

Last year's songs



## Handel without care

### CONCERTS



Barbara Fairchild  
Royal Opera House

have known it from the generally mealy-mouthed, polite delivery. And if the words go, so does the meaning.

What the operatic world needs is an equivalent of the National Theatre's legendary Patsy Rodenburg, someone to prod soloists into first asking themselves precisely why they are singing the words in their charge, then into whamming them out.

Admittedly, someone may have said something in the interval: in the second part Susan Gritten started to hit the consonants and found a verbal eloquence to match the succulent beauty of her musical phrasing, and it was here that Claron McFadden came into her own with sprightly coloratura and a beguiling trill.

Neal Davies (bass) was the most consistently communicative soloist: Lorna Anderson and Paul Agnew too seldom escaped the straitjacket of church-choir politesse. Excellent solos from Rachel Brown (flute) and Andrew Clark (horn); decent (no more) playing from the King's Consort. But a work of blazing genius.

RODNEY MILNES

## Thorns on the lark

### Songs & Concerts

Wigmore Hall

Leigh Bromley

Eight Scenes from Moonlighting Wood

Sophie Viney

Music of the Spheres

Melanie Marshall

voice dark and smoky

mosaic plus cabaret

footing from Kit and the Widow

Clément Ishmael

Three Interludes for Contemplative Spacemen

Richard Sisson

the widowed

of the comedy team

Was it fun? Not really, al-

though you can appreciate the

thrill young composers must

feel at hearing their works so

forthrightly delivered. Walker

took charge of the fledglings

with Christopher Gould at the

piano. She floated on air over the delicate fragments of Mik-

members of the Berkshire Youth Choir. BBC Sainsbury's Choir of the Year 1996, filed on to the stage with their director Gillian Dohden. Sisson's eight

Bird Songs madly eclectic beguiled the ear rather more than the two Sisson compositions already heard. Then, after two melodic songs by Clement Ishmael, it was showtime, whether you wanted it or not.

Leigh McDonald popped in from *Killing Raspoutine* to sing and squawk through a sub-Sondheim ditty. The National Youth Music Theatre's show

*The Kissing-Dance* was also heard from. But the only theatre song with real strength was Richard Taylor's *What We Have*, from his musical version of *The Go-Between*.

Then the cabaret clowns took over: not perhaps the best way to end an evening already strong on self-indulgence and weak on memorable music.

GEOFF BROWN

'ENORMOUSLY EXHILARATING AND ENTERTAINING'

John Gross, Sunday Telegraph

## WEST SIDE STORY 'AN INDESTRUCTIBLE CLASSIC'

Georgia Brown, Mail on Sunday  
'ONE OF THE GREAT POWER-HOUSES OF THE MUSICAL THEATRE'

Edna May, News of the World

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*The Bridge over the Waterlily Pond*. 1900 (24in x 20in)

THE TIMES

100 TOKENS



CRICKET: DIVERGENCE OF TWO FORMS OF GAME EMPHASISED BY LEFT-HANDER'S IMPORTANCE TO ENGLAND

# Fairbrother makes the world of difference

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN SYDNEY

THE Australia party to tour the West Indies, announced earlier this week, and England's team for the finals of the triangular tournament that will be resolved this week, highlight the growing independence of the one-day game.

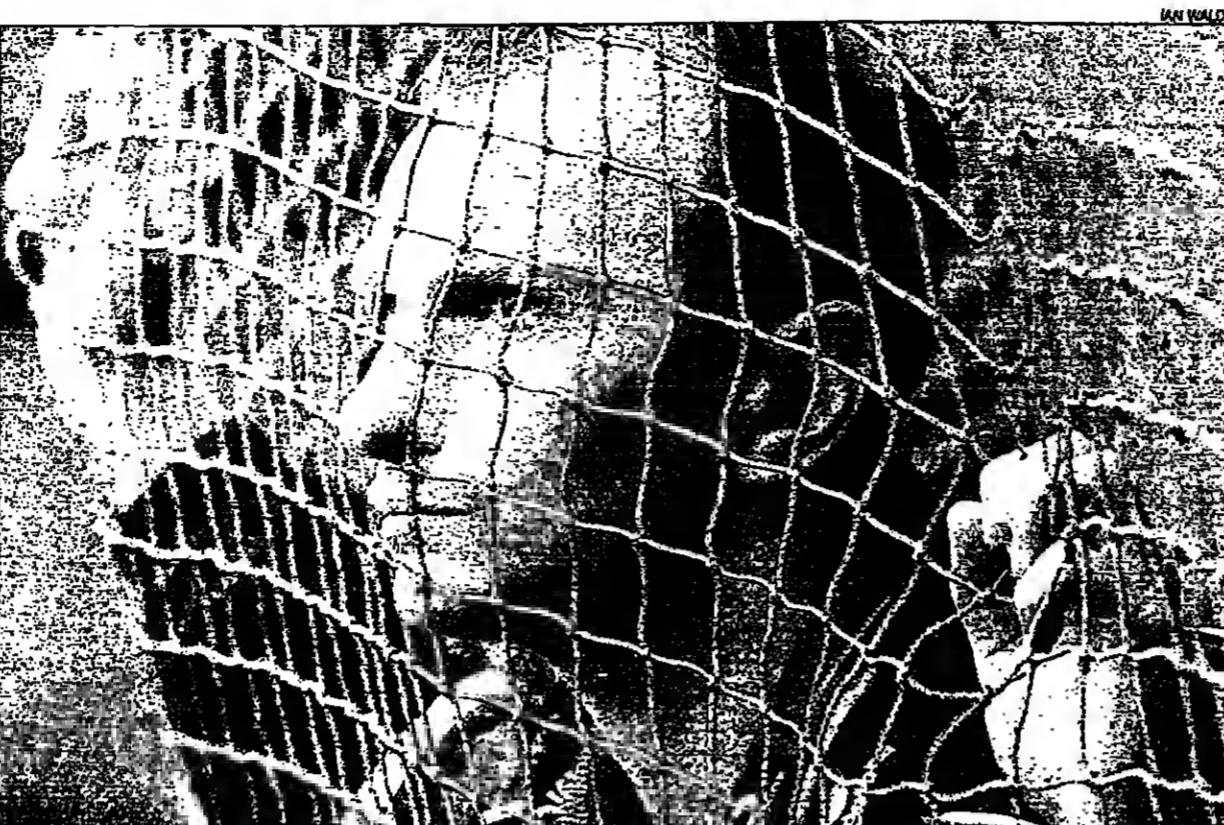
Of the 15 Australians picked for the Caribbean tour, seven are not involved in the present one-day thrash, eight if you include the injured Jason Gillespie. They include specialists like Michael Slater and Matthew Elliott, the opening batsmen, Ian Healy, the wicketkeeper, and Stuart MacGill, the wrist spinner. England have 15 players here now after Mark Alleyne's departure. Only five are first-choice Test players — Stewart, Hussain, Gough, Mullally and Headley.

Occasionally there is a convergence of the wizened Adam Dale, the 30-year-old seam bowler who has played just a single Test, may have thought that his international career was restricted to the one-day games. Yet, as a result of his one-day form, he is on the plane later this month, to supply the steady seam bowling that men such as Paul Reiffel have done in the past.

On the whole, though, the two games are drifting further apart. A player such as Mark Ealham, Kent's bowling all-rounder, may play Tests at home in the future, but he is unlikely to be on another tour. Adam Hollioake appears to be one degree under Test level, and Ashley Giles can expect greater opportunities as a one-day smotherer than a five-day spinner. Among the batsmen, Nick Knight may not come again at Test level, which is a shame, although he has an important part to play during the World Cup, as opener and superb all-round fielder.

The most interesting players in both teams are the left-handers, Neil Fairbrother and Michael Bevan. Both played Test cricket as young men, and neither really conquered it, although there was a time, two years ago, when the latter's unorthodox left-arm spin was buying a few wickets, that Bevan was on the cusp of a regular run in the Australia team.

Both men are excellent fielders, although one must enter a caveat against Fairbrother: when his hamstrings are not playing up. He remains doubtful for the first of the finals, at the Sydney Cricket Ground



Fairbrother stares through the netting at England's practice session in Sydney yesterday, forced inside because of rain

today where heavy rain yesterday has put the match in some doubt, after missing the last two preliminary games with a recurrence of this old problem.

There must be a real doubt that he can stand up to the strain of the World Cup.

Fairbrother was one of the ones that got away. Picked as a 23-year-old by England in 1987, he got off to a bad start in his first Test and never found the composure to turn his bristling talent into something substantial.

**LINKS**  
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Sky Sports 2, 7.30am (free).  
□ The Times one-day series hotline — 0891 881 461. Records, updates and commentary. Calls cost 50p per minute.

Bevan is a more complicated man. In Yorkshire, and in Sussex, where he has played his county cricket, Bevan has shown himself to be a brilliant player and, in holding the innings together in one-day cricket, he has few peers. Australia bat him at No 6, with the task of finding the necessary runs in the final stages, and he has rewarded them with a sequence of important performances. He has also, from time to time, taken them close and not delivered victory.

Fairbrother, a mainstay of the Lancashire team through two decades of high achievement in the shorter game, has played in ten Lord's finals, and been a winner seven times. He played superbly for England in the 1992 World

Cup, when they reached the final, but his half-century that night in Melbourne could not deny Pakistan.

Now, to his own astonishment, he is again a member of a World Cup party, restored to the side by Graham Thorpe's back injury and his own good form. His Test days were over long ago, and for a time it seemed his county career was far from secure, but he has returned with renewed purpose.

In the longer game, bowlers have exposed the shortcomings of both batsmen. Fast bowlers literally bounced Bevan into submission, while Fairbrother's technical weakness was outside off stump, where he would open the face of the bat — and still does — to run the ball down to third man.

Bevan and Fairbrother, wise guys in the ways of the one-day world. Should Australia or England prosper this summer, and Australia almost certainly will, they will have done much to bring it about.

## Loye supplies ideal platform

FROM THIRSY PETROPOULOS  
IN BULAWAYO

BULAWAYO (first day of five): England A won toss; England A have scored 256 for four wickets against Zimbabwe A

EIGHT years have passed since Mal Loye made his first appearance for Northamptonshire. Before the start of the last domestic season only seven first-class hundreds had followed. That figure now stands at 12, the latest of which he reached yesterday for England A in making an

unbeaten 122 on the first day of the second "Test" in Bulawayo.

Loye's was the highlight of professional, if occasionally muted, performance that has supplied a platform from which a sizeable first-innings total should follow.

Michael Vaughan won his sixth successive toss on tour but was infuriated with

himself when, after eight scoreless overs, he steered Bryan Strang straight to gully. Loye and Darren Maddy, the Leicestershire batsman, consolidated with an attractive partnership of 122 in 39 overs. Maddy contributing a solid 64 before running Andy Whitall to short mid-on. Two more wickets fell before Loye, who moved to a century with his fourteenth boundary, and Vikram Solanki added 67 to take England to the close.

WELLINGTON (second day of four): New Zealand Under-19, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 60 runs behind England Under-19

ENGLAND Under-19 had the opportunity to bat New Zealand out of the series here yesterday. However, after lunch the second new ball halted their progress. They scored only 24 runs in 24 overs and lost their last four wickets for only two runs. England

IN WELLINGTON

FROM JOHN STERN

then failed to take a wicket in the final session.

Michael Gough, the England captain, batted for more than 6½ hours for 116, one run more than the lead his side achieved when they were bowled out for 225. He has worked hard on his off-side strokes and his driving looked in reasonable order. The century came up with his twelfth

boundary, an on-driven four off Martin, the left-arm spinner. But, batting with the tail, Gough was caught behind as he drove with uncharacteristic abandon at James Franklin.

Gough's partnership of 142 with Richard Dawson, who batted with admirable application, was the only one of substance in the England innings. Shaw took five wickets, as he did in New Plymouth.

Scoreboards, page 37

## Gough plays leading role

FROM JOHN STERN  
IN WELLINGTON

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Scoreboards, page 37

# CHRONICLE of the FUTURE



# THE ZOOMERANG: LONDON - NEW YORK IN 50 MINUTES.

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JULIE 150

## Wasim critical of umpire and slow pitch

FROM RICHARD HOBSON IN DELHI

THE harmony that has been so conspicuous through Pakistan's first significant tour of India for 12 years was threatened last night after Wasim Akram criticised the umpiring and the pitch in the second Test match in Delhi. As the touring team left for a three-day game in Kochi, which begins tomorrow, Camerie Smith, the match referee, confirmed that he was investigating comments made by the Pakistan captain in *The Pioneer*, an Indian newspaper.

Even if Smith decides that Wasim has not contravened the International Cricket Council (ICC) code of conduct by saying that Pakistan "got a couple of debatable decisions" during the defeat by 212 runs, then the player can be judged to have raised the matter ahead of the first game in the inaugural Asian Test Championship (ATC) next Tuesday.

There will be a measure of support in the international game for Wasim's suggestion that Tests should be officiated by two umpires from neutral countries instead of the present arrangement where a neutral operates alongside an umpire from the home nation. But because this is among the innovations agreed for the ATC — sanctioned by the sport's governing body — Wasim might have been better holding his tongue until after the match in Calcutta.

From the moment of arrival in India three weeks ago the tour has been a diplomatic and public relations triumph. However, the frequency and volume of Pakistan's appealing during the two Tests was criticised in the Indian press. Most newspapers also felt that the touring team enjoyed the better of the decisions in the first game in Madras.

A.V. Jayaprakash, from India, stood at the end from which Anil Kumble took ten wickets in the second innings on Sunday. He gave five batsmen out to catches close to the wicket and three leg-before. Replays did not prove error in any case.

Wasim, while acknowledging that the better side won in Delhi, said: "We need neutral umpires in all cricket and especially in an India-Paki-



Wasim controversy

zed and, if the papers decide in the interim that Wasim has cast a slur on their country, and on Jayaprakash in particular, then it will have implications for Eden Gardens, where the capacity is 70,000.

Despite his criticisms, Wasim believes that the two-match series, which was independent of the ATC, emerged as a huge success once right-wing Hindu militants called off threats of disruptive action a week before the first Test. "It has shown that cricket can achieve what politics cannot," Wasim said. "The Indian people, like the Pakistanis, feel that cricket and politics should not mix."

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This is a hand reported to me by Brian Jackson, one of the best players in the TGR £10 game. The play of the hearts depends on assumptions about the layout of the other suits.

Dealer South Love all Rubber bridge

♦ AJ92	♦ AK43	♦ A5	♦ Q76
♦ Q87	♦ J876	♦ 1064	♦ 1062
♦ 1054	♦ 1053	♦ 1052	♦ 1051
♦ 1043	♦ 1042	♦ 1041	♦ 1040
♦ 1032	♦ 1031	♦ 1030	♦ 1029

Contract: Seven No-Trumps by South. Lead: six of diamonds.

South opened One No-Trump (15-17) and North, into his fifth glass of TGR's Red Infuriator, ambitiously raised to Seven No-Trumps. West, a good player, led the six of diamonds. There was no chance of that being away from the king in a grand slam, but nevertheless declarer played low from dummy and the hand was over at trick one.

What declarer should do is take the ace of diamonds. He now has eleven tricks if he guesses the hearts: two in spades, four in hearts, one in diamonds and four in clubs. His best chance of two more is to find West with the queen of spades, and East with four spades and the king of diamonds. If that is the distribution, East will be squeezed in the end-game.

After winning the ace of diamonds declarer should take his club winners. Here all follow to three rounds, and each of West, North, and East discards a diamond on the fourth round. Now,

declarer plays the six of diamonds. The queen of spades is good after declarer plays the king of spades and finesses the jack.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

## Drawn outcome

Today I conclude my coverage of the important ten-game match between Michael Adams, England's top-ranked grandmaster, and Yasser Seirawan, the prominent US grandmaster. The final score of two wins each with six draws led to a tied outcome. I wrap up with the final decisive game and an exciting draw.

White: Michael Adams

Black: Yasser Seirawan

Mermaid Beach Club

Bermuda 1999

Caro-Kann Defence

1 e4	1 e5	1 d5	1 Nf3
2 d4	2 d6	2 c5	2 Nf6
3 Nc3	3 Nc6	3 Nc5	3 Nc7
4 Nf3	4 Nf6	4 Nc5	4 Nc7
5 e5	5 e6	5 Nc5	5 Nc7
6 Nf6	6 Nc5	6 Nc5	6 Nc7
7 Qd2	7 Qd2	7 Nc5	7 Nc7
8 Nc3	8 Nc3	8 Nc5	8 Nc7
9 Nf6	9 Nf6	9 Nc5	9 Nc7
10 Nc3	10 Nc3	10 Nc5	10 Nc7
11 Nf6	11 Nf6	11 Nc5	11 Nc7
12 Nc3	12 Nc3	12 Nc5	12 Nc7
13 Nf6	13 Nf6	13 Nc5	13 Nc7
14 O-O	14 O-O	14 Nc5	14 Nc7
15 Nc3	15 Nc3	15 Nc5	15 Nc7
16 Qd2	16 Qd2	16 Nc5	16 Nc7
17 Nf6	17 Nf6	17 Nc5	17 Nc7
18 Nc3	18 Nc3	18 Nc5	18 Nc7
19 Nf6	19 Nf6	19 Nc5	19 Nc7
20 Nc3	20 Nc3	20 Nc5	20 Nc7
21 Nf6	21 Nf6	21 Nc5	21 Nc7
22 Nc3	22 Nc3	22 Nc5	22 Nc7
23 Nf6	23 Nf6	23 Nc5	23 Nc7
24 Nc3	24 Nc3	24 Nc5	24 Nc7
25 Nf6	25 Nf6	25 Nc5	25 Nc7
26 Nc3	26 Nc3	26 Nc5	26 Nc7
27 Nf6	27 Nf6	27 Nc5	27 Nc7
28 Nc3	28 Nc3	28 Nc5	28 Nc7
29 Nf6	29 Nf6	29 Nc5	29 Nc7
30 Nc3	30 Nc3	30 Nc5	30 Nc7
31 Nf6	31 N		

Teeton Mill given top mark ahead of Suny Bay as Aintree handicap is unveiled

# Pitman advocates value of feminine touch

By CHRIS MCGRATH

JENNIFER PITMAN, the first lady of Aintree, is recommending a policy of "ladies first" for the 1999 Martell Grand National. Such deference owes nothing to good manners and everything to the fact that women trainers could look at the weights for the great steeplechase, published yesterday, and consider themselves first among equals.

In 1983, Mrs Pitman became the first to train a National winner, Corbiere, and followed up 12 years later with Royal Athlete — albeit neither victory will linger as long in the memory, perhaps, as the hollow one of Esha Ness in the tragicomedy of 1993.

Despite having recently confirmed her continuing fortune in a sterner battle — for her health — Mrs Pitman is offering just one candidate for this year's race. Nor, predictably, does she feel that Naithen Lad, a 25-1 chance, has ever prised himself free of the handicapper's attentions.

Nonetheless she urged punters to consider the lucrative possibilities of the Tote's offer of 11-2 against "Girl Power", as the other eight entries made by female trainers include two



from the stable of Venetia Williams: Teeton Mill, whose King George VI Chase success earns him top-weight, and General Wolfe, who demonstrated at Uttoxeter on Saturday that Aintree does not have a monopoly on blood-curdling falls. The good fortune that saw him walk away unscathed there would serve him well on April 10.

"That's got to be a good bet," he said. Naithen Lad was second to Clever Remark at Sandown on Saturday but his trainer feels that he has never been forgiven for winning at the Cheltenham Festival as a novice.

"They've been hard-treated like a Gold Cup horse," he said.

"Unfortunately, he got a bit

demoralised. He was beaten by a horse carrying a stone

and a half less at Sandown, so don't look at the distance we were beaten but as far as we pulled away from the third."

The precept of handicap races is that the runners, awarded different weights to reflect their relative talents, start on a level playing field. Nonetheless, the simple master of lead weight decided Suny Bay's fate when he toiled nobly into second again last year. Teeton Mill will be some horse if he can go one better after first tackling Florida Pearl in the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup, though at least the 23-day interval this year allows more breathing space than has sometimes been the case.

Coral offers 33-1 against the grey completing the double, compared with 50-1 against Cyfor Malta, one of 14 entries trained by Martin Pipe, 66-1 against Double Thriller, 80-1 Escarrefougue, 100-1 Unsinkable Boxer and 150-1 Suny Bay.

Williams, weary of the rumours that she has found to go with the new territory she has conquered this season, reiterated that Teeton Mill is "absolutely fine" after one or two minor problems since Kempton.

"It's a situation one always hoped to be in, one day, but it's terrifying once one actually gets here," she said. Phil Smith, who recently succeeded Christopher Mordaunt as chasing handicapper, might tell her that his is a more invidious position. His style is more aggressive than that of his predecessor and has prompted some criticism from trainers.

Happily, there was no grousing about the weights for his first National. Dismissing his baptism of fire as "a storm in a teacup", Smith said: "I've had support from those I would consider the top five trainers in the country, which has been very reassuring. I hope trainers get used to big drops and big rises. That's my style and I hope they accept that and work with me rather than against me." Big rises and big drops, it is certainly an appropriate approach to Aintree.

**RICHARD EVANS**  
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP  
LADIES' CHASE  
MARCH 13  
Naithen Lad's charge  
in the 1998 Grand National  
was a highlight of the meet.  
PHOTOGRAPH BY RICHARD EVANS

It's a situation one always hoped to be in, one day, but it's terrifying once one actually

To be run at Aintree on April 10.

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One new coach experiments with winning line-up while the other sticks to familiar formation

# France draw confidence from status as world champions

BY MATT DICKINSON

**THE SMELL** of success lingers around the France camp as closely as autograph hunters surround Zinedine Zidane. It follows the players from their hotel to the training ground, and it will waft with them this evening as they journey past Wembley Way. It is an air of utter assuredness that comes from being champions of the world, and it has transformed good players into great ones.

With men like Desailly, Peôt and Zidane advancing to their peak, it is not just the cockerels on their shirts that can afford to strut and crow. The supreme self-confidence of the French has been interpreted by some as arrogance. They flew into London only 48 hours before tonight's game, and the casualness of their manner can occasionally smack of conceit.

Do not be fooled. It is simply that the machine is clicking over so smoothly now that it needs only the slightest greasing. Asked what the coach told the team before games, one player replied: "He tells us we are world champions so enjoy it." And it really does appear that simple.

The task of picking the side has now fallen to Roger Lemerre, who took over after the World Cup triumph last summer. It might have seemed a genuine example of the "impossible job", given that his country had just scaled the Everest of international football, but Lemerre shows no signs of leading them down.

A canny, as well as a charming, operator, he remains unbeaten as an international manager. His background — something which the Football Association may care to note as it searches for a replacement for Glenn Hoddle — is far from prestigious and he was very much the safe option, just as Howard Wilkinson appears with England.

An international defender who won six caps, he was coach of the French military team until he was invited to join Aimé Jacquet's back-up staff last year, and he has no great stature in the world game. Nor is he a tactical genius, but he does not need to be as he builds on the strengths of an impenetrable defence and redoubtable midfield that made France so formidable in the World Cup.

A more adventurous soul by nature than Jacquet — and a more



personable man as well — he is now onking with an attack which, if successful, could make France a side of terrifying potential. Leboeuf and Vieira, idols in the English game, are not even likely to start. Nicolas Anelka, the Arsenal forward, is Lemerre's great hope for the future, but he remains as hard to predict as his moods. "He might have been picked for the World Cup, but it was a little too early for him," Lemerre said. "If he keeps up the good work, he will be a great player."

Arsenal supporters who remain unconvinced by that argument should have the chance to judge further tonight. The 19-year-old is likely to start, and Lemerre may experiment by using his pace in isolation up front. Keown and Adams are good at man-to-man marking, but not so happy when there is a lot of running around them," Lemerre said, and he may try to confuse England's centre backs by giving them only their Arsenal clubmate to mark.

Such tactics would see Zidane and Djorkaeff, the Internazionale forward who will play against Manchester United in the European Cup quarter-final next month — in tandem just behind the striker. Deschamps, the captain, and Petit will bolster the midfield while Vieira must compete with Boghossian for one place.

The defence, with Blanc likely to be selected ahead of Leboeuf, is the one that played for most of the World Cup. Such a team would be one lacking in width, but it appears that the France coach has no intention of recalling David Ginola, the Tottenham Hotspur winger, who has been exiled from his national team since 1993.

"We all love David, but I am not obliged to pick him," Lemerre said.

"He does not integrate into the team.

David is 32 now, and we have many good young players. Look at Anelka.

He is only 19, but he has won the league and cup with Arsenal and played in the Champions' League.

"David's talent is not in dispute. I used to watch Paris Saint-Germain just to see him. His ability is exceptional, but I also have to think about the team." And what a team when Vieira cannot even be guaranteed a place.



Zidane, the France midfield player, may be asked by Lemerre to play an attacking role behind Anelka

## History points to England facing stiff task

BY MEL WEBB

AS THOUGH they do not have enough on their hands, a legacy left to the present England team by their predecessors will be abroad at Wembley tonight. If they manage to defeat France, they will be bucking a powerful trend — only once in the past 23 years have England contrived a victory over the world champions at the time in a full international.

The last time they did so was also at Wembley, but it is necessary to go back to May, 1980 to find it. England beat Argentina 3-1, but the spirit of triumphalist that was thick in the air that night was as nothing compared with the national side's previous victory over the World Cup holders of the day.

It was March 12, 1975, England v West Germany before a crowd of 100,000 at Wembley, and against all the odds England won 2-0 to claim their first success over their old rivals since beating them 4-2 in the World Cup final of 1966.

The team, managed by Don Revie, were without Paul Madeley, Allan Clarke, Kevin Beattie and David Johnson, all of whom had played in an FA Cup replay between Leeds United and Ipswich Town the night before, but a virtuous performance by one of English football's wayward geniuses more than compensated for their absence. Alan Hudson was hugely gifted, but his was a talent that went largely unfulfilled, both for club and country.

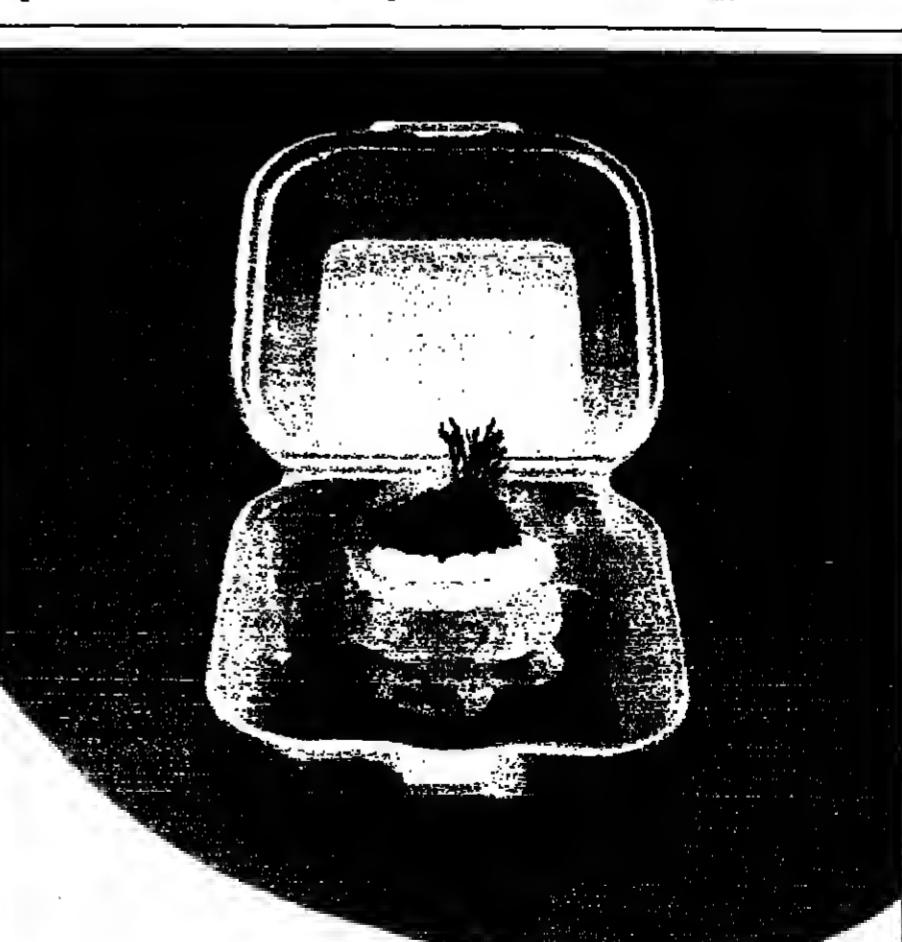
This, however, was his

night of nights, a match in which he was the spark behind the flames as Bell and McDonald scored the all-important goals. Hudson had never produced such a performance for England before — and was destined never to again.

It was the first time England had beaten the world champions for 19 years — in May, 1956 they enjoyed a 3-1 victory over, again, West Germany.

### DETAILS

1954: England 1 Italy 2
1958: Italy 2 England 2
1962: England 3 Brazil 1
1966: England 2 Italy 0
1968: Uruguay 2 England 1
1970: England 2 Uruguay 2
1974: West Germany 1 England 1
1976: Brazil 2 England 0
1980: England 3 Brazil 1
1982: England 1 Brazil 1
1986: Brazil 5 England 1
1990: England 2 West Germany 1
1994: West Germany 2 England 1
1998: England 1 Italy 2
1998: England 1 Brazil 3
1998: England 0 Brazil 1



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## FOOTBALL

**Keane not eager to play in Nigeria**

FROM RUSSELL KEMPSON IN DUBLIN

THE Football Association of Ireland (FAI) confirmed yesterday that Robbie Keane, the Wolverhampton Wanderers striker, would play for Ireland in the world under-20 championship finals in Nigeria in April.

Colin Lee, the Wolves manager, and Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, have both said they do not want Keane to play in Nigeria and the 18-year-old is not impressed either. Only the FAI, which takes great pride in the success of its youth sides abroad, feels the need to expose him to what is likely to prove an arduous trip.

A delegation from Fifa, the sport's world governing body, visited Nigeria recently and concluded that although the facilities for the tournament were barely adequate, they would do. In a country in which little gets done at pace, and rarely without some form of discreet inducement, it was perhaps the best they could hope for. Small wonder that Lee, McCarthy and Keane share such grave doubts.

England have also qualified for the finals but Howard Wilkinson, in his role as technical director of the Football Association, has said that he will not call on players who are playing first-team football. As well as Keane, Ireland are likely to select Stephen McPhail, of Leeds United; Richard Dunne, of Everton, and Damien Duff, of Blackburn Rovers.

Keane and Duff play for Ireland in their international match against Paraguay at Lansdowne Road tonight. McCarthy has made two changes — Roy Keane for Alan McLoughlin in midfield and Ian Harte for Steve Staunton in defence — from the side that lost 1-0 against Yugoslavia in their European championship qualifying tie three months ago. Paraguay have not played since losing 1-0 to France in the second round of the World Cup last summer. It is the first game for Eyer Almeida, their coach.

IRELAND 14-2 S Green (Newcastle United) — 0 Lewis (Manchester United), K Cunningham (Wimbledon), G Brown (Celtic, City), I Harte (Leeds United) — J McPhail (Leeds United), D Duff (Blackburn United), M Kinsella (Charlton Athletic), D Duff (Blackburn Rovers) — N Quigley (Sunshine Coast), Robbie Keane (Wolverhampton), R Keane (Olympique Lyonnais), R Vassell (Olympique Lyonnais), J Valdes (Olympique Lyonnais), M Asusta (Sportivo Luqueño), I Aldan (Sportivo Luqueño), G Lopez (Paraguayan), C Parades (Sportivo Luqueño), E Aguilera (Cerro Porteno), J Franco (Olympique Lyonnais), T Gonzalez (Cerro Porteno), R Roman (Cerro Porteno), R Ortega (Cerro Porteno) (Olympique Lyonnais). Referee: G T Orman (Ireland)

## FOOTBALL IN BRIEF

MANCHESTER United aim to reward Alex Ferguson for his success at Old Trafford by making him the best-paid manager in Great Britain. The club has opened preliminary negotiations with Ferguson's advisers over a three-year deal worth £15 million. The deal would eclipse the £1 million-a-year that Ferguson earns at present at Old Trafford, including his bonuses, and will make the 57-year-old the highest-paid manager in the country.

Danny Murphy, the Liverpool midfield player, will return to Crewe Alexandra, his former club, on a month's loan this week. The 21-year-old has been unable to break into the first team at Anfield since his £1.5 million move from the Nationwide League first division club at the start of the 1997-98 season.

B Hansen, 26, the Denmark striker, has agreed to join Bolton Wanderers from Brondby for £1 million, pending a medical. He will be the fourth Dane on the books at Bolton.

Alessandro Melli, who scored for Parma in their 3-1 victory in the 1993 Cup Winners' Cup final, played in a trial match for Nottingham Forest against Scunthorpe United yesterday.

## RUGBY UNION

# Newcastle lose backing as Hall vision fades

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

FIRST in, first out, the cynics will say after the news yesterday that Newcastle are to lose the backing of Cameron Hall Developments. The 1998 Premiership champions, part of Sir John Hall's dream of a sporting club to rival those of the Continent, will be left to stand on their own feet in a move which will have the employees of every club owned by one wealthy individual glancing over their shoulders.

Many in English rugby would claim that the sport would be better without the owners. This overlooks the massive investment — well over £30 million — made by those individuals since the game went professional in 1995. Sir John was the first to take advantage of the changed circumstances, by supporting Newcastle Gosforth.

But the sheer expense of the rugby operation and limited local support, together with the chaotic political landscape of the sport, have proved too much for Douglas Hall, Sir John's son, and Freddie Shepherd, the leading directors of Cameron Hall. Though they are prepared to sponsor the club to a degree, they will not continue to fund an organisation that has cost an estimated £9 million so far. The costs have included the move to Gateshead International Stadium, where five-figure crowds failed to materialise, forcing a return in November to King's Park.

There is, though, a significant difference between the struggling second-division

club that was taken over in 1995, and the competitive first-division outfit that Hall's money and the acumen of Rob Andrew has created. While it has been clear this season that the purse-strings have been drawn far tighter, with the sale of Pat Lam and Richard Metcalfe to Northampton during the summer, together with the release of the charismatic Dean Ryan to Bristol, Newcastle are a going concern in playing terms.

Andrew, the director of rugby, has drawn together a potent combination of experience and young talent — English talent such as Jonathan Wilkinson and Ian Peel — that has carried Newcastle to the last eight of the Tedes' Bitter Cup and to sixth place in the first division of the Allied Dunbar Premiership.

"The club would like to stress it is business as usual, with the team looking forward

to a long and successful future," Andrew, preparing for the game against Richmond tonight, said.

It is not entirely surprising that Hall Junior and Shepherd have cut the umbilical cord, in the light of Sir John's withdrawal for health reasons to Spain. Sir John has become disillusioned with the relationships between the leading clubs and the Rugby Football Union, and many close to the club believed at the start of this season that there was little support for rugby outside that of their principal patron.

The possibility exists of mergers with other rugby clubs in the area. West Hartlepool, the bottom club in the first division, is regularly touted as a natural partner, but even closer at hand is Northern, who play four divisions below Newcastle in Northern 1. Northern have had offers of up to £5 million for their ground, which would allow them to buy into the assets available at Kingston Park, where crowds have averaged just under 4,000 this season.

Richmond have been docked two league points after postponing their Premiership clash against Harlequins last November. The fixture on November 14 was rearranged because Reading Football Club needed the Madejski Stadium, which Richmond share, for an FA Cup tie. Richmond rejected Harlequins' requests to use Richmond's former Athletic Ground home in London, or to switch the game to a neutral venue.



Sir John: disillusioned



Henman keeps his eye on the ball on the way to his straight-sets success yesterday

## Henman puts black memory behind him

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN DUBAI

PATIENCE, it is said, is a virtue and it is one that Tim Henman has tried hard to learn. Having run into a German wall every time that he had appeared at the Dubai Open — the obstacle coming first in the shape of Martin Sinner and then, the following year, Boris Becker — Henman reached the promised land yesterday, claiming, at last, a place in the second round. He did it with a 6-0, 6-4 win over Wayne Black that was a lot harder than it looked.

After making his way into the world's top ten and reclaiming his domestic No 1 slot, Henman has endeavoured to distance himself from the forlorn figure of a year ago. Losses this year are no more than minor blips that are best forgotten quickly.

"Some days you play badly and the best thing to do is put those behind you," he said, brushing aside his performance at the Australian Open, "but when you have a long stretch of losses, you have to

think about it. Twelve months ago, there was a lot of analysis because things just weren't happening for me."

During that spell, Henman put in an appalling performance to lose to Black in the first round at Indian Wells.

He admitted that he had no plan and no idea what he was doing. This time, he was determined to do better.

"Obviously, there was a big difference today from then," he said. "This period last year was a big struggle and it doesn't matter how much I say I have learnt from that, winning is the proof."

Even so, Henman did not come here brimming with confidence. Knowing that this

period of the year is his chance to improve his ranking — with almost no ranking points to defend, the only way is up — simply spurred him on rather than relaxes him and he wanted to improve his record at this event.

He did not make it easy for himself. His first service deserted him for much of the first set and, despite the 6-0 scoreline, he had to do a great deal of running around to achieve it.

By the second set, Black was matching Henman blow for blow, yet, come the big points, it was the No 3 seed who knew what to do next. The break finally came in the ninth game and from there it was plain sailing.

The next name on Henman's list is Jonas Bjorkman, who solved his German problem by beating Becker 6-3, 6-4. Not even 5,000 cager supporters could make Becker's legs move any faster as Bjorkman made the grand old man of tennis look his age.

## SPORT IN BRIEF

**Coulthard brushes hopes of Hill aside**

■ MOTOR RACING: David Coulthard has dismissed Damon Hill's claim that he can figure in the battle for the world drivers' championship this season in his Jordan. Coulthard, continuing his preparations in the new McLaren in Barcelona yesterday, said: "From a British point of view, it would be great if Damon and Jordan were right up there, but I think a few more teams have a better chance."

"Testing can be misleading. The only time we will find out how quick the cars are will be in qualifying for the first race in Melbourne. With the cars all running on the same tyres this season, I expect the grid to be a little bit closer."

■ ICE HOCKEY: Keith Milne, the owner of the Kingston Hawks, has relinquished immediate control of the financially stricken club after pressure from the National League and players' union. Milnehen was attempting to raise £145,000 by floated the club on the OTEX unregulated stock market, but his plans appear to be in disarray. Adrian Florence, the former manager, who leads a consortium bidding to keep the ten-year-old club in existence, will be in control of the team until the end of the season.

■ CYCLING: Colin Sturgess yesterday pulled out of the 12-day Tour of Langkawi in Malaysia before the start of the seventh stage because of a severe stomach upset (Peter Bryan writes). Until then he had been the best-placed British rider overall, 4min 27sec down on Frank McCormick of the United States, the race leader.

■ TENNIS: Andre Agassi, the No 2 seed, scored a swift 6-2, 6-1 victory over Todd Woodbridge, the Australian doubles specialist, in the first round of the Sybase Open in San Jose, California, yesterday. Michael Chang, the No 4 seed, also advanced easily with a 6-2, 6-2 triumph over Fernando Meligeni, of Brazil.

■ BOXING: Frank Maloney, the promoter and manager, has signed Brian Magee and David Lowry, the Ulster boxers, who both competed at the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur in September last year, to his professional stable. Magee, a middleweight, was a bronze medal-winner in Malaysia.

## RUGBY LEAGUE

## Monie relies on Reber

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

MARK REBER, the former North Sydney hooker, arrived from Australia yesterday and learned that he will make his Wigan Warriors debut in the Salford, the 1998 semi-final against Sheffield Eagles. Only

Wigan delayed their preparations for the Leeds match until the arrival of Reber, whose last appearance was in the Australian Grand Final series last September. John Monie, the coach, who is undecided whether to start Reber at scrum half, hooker, or to bring him off the bench, said: "With first-grade experience in Sydney, he should be able to pick up what we do fairly quickly."

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Eight signings, including five Australians — Paul Carnegie, Garen

# Mind games take their toll

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

**T**here are plenty of stories about the wicked witch that turns her victims into stone. It seemed that Stephen Hendry had been turned into wood. To be fair — perhaps the word I am looking for is unfair — he starts closer than most of us.

But by the time he had been beaten by Tony Drago, he looked even more like a Stan Laurel puppet than ever before, and that takes a bit of doing. Mournful-looking even in moments of effortless triumph, in abject defeat he was a neatly-chiselled version of the tragic muse.

If you looked a trifle deeper into the business at the Benson and Hedges Masters championship at Wembley, you found a fellow called Steve Davis being beaten by Ken Doherty. Weird. With snooker, and with results like these, we have had to rethink all we thought we knew about sport.

Perhaps that has been the most instructive facet about the snooker boom of the Eighties, and its continued popularity at sub-bomb level: snooker has given us a new set of rules about sport. For how could Hendry possibly lose? He beat Drago 12 times on the trot; he has won the present competition six times; he once put together 23 successive victories at the Masters.

So perhaps the great champion had an off day. He has achieved so much, he can be excused an aberration. But no. Drago has beaten him in their past three meetings. So perhaps Drago has improved. But the fact of the matter is that Hendry — unbeatable Hendry — has not won a title



Fading star: The golden years are over for Hendry as he contemplates another defeat

on British soil since 1997. And as for Davis, his own unbeatable days are distant history.

When a great footballer begins to fail, we nod wisely and say: poor fellow, his legs have gone. But there is nothing on earth the master with the legs of Steve and Stephen. These four items are eminently

ly capable of supporting their two players for a stroll around the baize. They can even take their masters through the tricky shots when they are standing on only one.

No. Poor fellows, it is their brains that have gone. That is the heart of the matter. When a tennis champion reaches the

end, we tend to say that the spirit and the appetite is still there, but his legs have gone and his hand-eye co-ordination has let him down. We say much the same thing for all the once-greats in all the running-about sports. But snooker seems to be telling us that we are wrong in doing so. In

the final red which lay awkwardly between the yellow spot and a middle pocket. As a result he was forced to take it from distance and the red caught the jaws of a balk pocket.

With the colours ideally situated, Higgins would surely have claimed the highest-break award of £18,000 in addition to the keys to a Honda car valued at £80,000. Kirk Stevens thus remains the only competitor to compile a maximum in the 25-year history of the event.

By PHIL YATES

generated when Higgins put together a run of 112 in the fourth frame.

Higgins, attempting to join Steve Davis and Stephen Hendry as the only player to simultaneously hold the world, United Kingdom and Masters titles, potted 14 reds with blacks to move within striking distance of a lucrative £17.

Unfortunately, Higgins did not achieve the desired angle for position on

the final red which lay awkwardly between the yellow spot and a middle pocket. As a result he was forced to take it from distance and the red caught the jaws of a balk pocket.

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## SKIING

## Austrians sustain dominance

FROM GRAHAM DUFFILL IN VAIL COLORADO

WHEN Pete Seibert founded Vail in 1961, he modelled the town on an Austrian village and invited Austrians to come and teach the skiing. Nearly 30 years later, Austria is still dominating Vail, taking ten of the 15 medals awarded in the first week of the world championships.

The Austria team here is a small army. A million-pound budget, encompassing 90 skiers and 54 coaches, means that they can train wherever and whenever they wish. This summer they bought the exclusive rights to the Zermatt glacier in Switzerland for six weeks for £20,000, sub-leasing training rights to their Swiss rivals between 5,300m and 8,800m.

The Austria team know that they are simply enjoying a streak of good form while their rivals have hit a trough, and one of their trainers said: "It's getting embarrassing already." The balance should change a little this week as the championships move away from the speed events into the technical races.

The women's giant slalom tomorrow, in particular, may increase Austria's embarrassment, since their leading women, Alexandra Meissnitzer and Anja Wachter, have been dominant this season, winning every race before the world championships. But Deborah Campagnoni, the Olympic gold medallist from Italy, has been training hard in nearby Aspen and will be competitive after innumerable second places this year.

## SNOW REPORTS

	Depth cm	U	Priste	Runs to resort	Off/p	Weather (Spur) °C	Last snow
Austria	80-176	Good	Open	Powder	Snow -5	9/2	
Czech Rep	50-262	Good	Open	Powder	Snow -11	9/2	
Switzerland	110-192	Good	Open	Powder	Snow -3	9/2	
Canada	150-450	Good	Open	Powder	Snow -8	9/2	
USA	125-180	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud -4	9/2	
France	160-262	Good	Open	Powder	Snow -3	9/2	
Spain	160-270	Good	Open	Powder	Snow -1	9/2	
Italy	150-230	Good	Open	Powder	Snow -3	9/2	
Les Arcs	170-220	Good	Open	Powder	Snow -3	9/2	
Marigeyre	200-300	Good	Open	Powder	Snow -1	9/2	
Val d'Isere	150-250	Good	Open	Powder	Snow -3	9/2	
Val Thorens	150-320	Good	Open	Powder	Snow -3	9/2	
USA	150-220	Good	Open	Powder	Snow -3	9/2	
Canada	90-185	Good	Open	Powder	Snow -6	9/2	
China	50-150	Hard	Open	Cloud	Snow -5	5/2	
Japan	90-170	Good	Open	Varietd	Snow -3	9/2	
UK	80-170	Good	Open	Powder	Snow -3	9/2	
Switzerland	80-170	Good	Open	Powder	Snow -3	9/2	
Spain	150-280	Good	Open	Powder	Snow -5	9/2	
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# Belief in the hard sell spirals out of control

Salesman — even Willy Loman — used to be able to see the lighter side of life. They were people with whom you could crack a joke as you cut a deal. When someone asked Lew Grade how much two and two made, he replied, like the wheeler-dealer he was: "Buying or selling?"

But the modern salesmen we met in *Workers at War*, BBC1's new documentary series about life in the workplace, prepare for an encounter with customers the way GIs parachuted into Vietnam prepared to meet the Vietcong.

Apparently it's a war out there. At North Amber computer sales in Surbiton, the telephone sales team are goaded into a frenzy by a Mr Motivator who tells them: "Let's break the marketplace! Let's drop it, flop it, shop it! We're North Amber!" To their credit, few of the staff snorted up their sleeves, probably because the sleeve-snorters had been weeded out at the

interviews. "It's very competitive," explained their boss, "that's the whole idea of it. What we're looking to recruit is people who are hungry, bubbly, little bastards."

But the trouble with human beings is that they're so unreliable. Take Carl: he passed the interview, underwent training, and seemed to be flourishing when, suddenly, he was no longer dropping, flopping, and shopping it. His boss wants to give him a second chance, provided Carl has the mettle for the long haul.

So he asks him out straight: "Carl, where are you on your belief spiral?" It must have been a rhetorical question, or else Carl was remaining silent because he had no more idea what his boss was talking about than if he'd asked him the exact same question in Norwegian. But just to make sure he got the message, Carl's boss let him in on the secret of success: "Stop thinking! Thinking is dan-

gerous! When you think, you start letting negative pictures in your mind!" I'll let Lew Grade drill that into his staff all the time.

**N**ow Martin Cahill, the notorious Dublin gangster whose life was vividly portrayed in *Vicious Circle* (BBC1), had his own, novel methods of motivating his men. Suspecting a member of his gang of double-crossing him, Cahill taught him a lesson by nailing his hands to the floor. When a rookie copper, hearing of this horrifying gangland punishment, stammered: "If someone did that to me I'd give 'em up," his cynical, seen-it-all-before boss replied.

"Not if you thought they were gonna come for your feet next!" Now THAT'S a results-led incentive programme they don't often teach you about on salesmanship courses.

Ken Stott, whose face has an uncanny knack of being able to

convey warmth and menace almost simultaneously — made a convincingly unpleasant Cahill, a cruel, clever, but dangerously vain man who supported two households — one with his wife and children and another with his wife's sister, with whom he also fathered several children. What undid him in the end was not the williness of the Garda — around whom he ran rings, and whose incompetence

was mocked by *Vicious Circle*'s author, Kieran Prendeville. When, in one scene, an officer tells his colleague that it won't be old-fashioned police work that eventually traps Cahill, the colleague cheekily snaps straight back: "We're not going to fit him up, then?"

No, what did for Cahill was his belief in his invulnerability. Cahill was too vain to see how many enemies he was making in the IRA with his headline-grabbing robberies, especially his ingenious thefts from the Bell Collection in Ruisborough House. These proved easier to steal than to sell: they were too recognisable.

Cornered, he tried to salvage some self-esteem (and cash) by selling the Goyas and Vermeers through loyalist parochialities. Now it was the IRA's vanity that was ruffled. Within 24 hours, the man Ireland had come to know as The General was shot by an IRA gunman on a Dublin street as he

sat in his car, waiting for the lights to change. Cunniling, Rafters-like robberies; political intrigue; mob life; betrayal; unconventional marital set-ups; police chases; senseless violence — here was a true-life story that had everything a film-maker could want. This fact didn't escape the notice of several other film-makers: John Boorman's *The General* piped David Blair's film for BBC Northern Ireland to the screen, winning a prize at Cannes, and another this week in London. Still to come is another version, starring Kevin Spacey.

In Sheffield they make a similar ploy to be noticed, only they do it with spray cans. In *Graffiti Wars*, this non-judgmental film for Channel 4's series of *Short Stories*, Hugo Smith tracked down a handful of people who haven't grown out of doodling their name repeatedly in their schoolbooks. Lord knows, British train carriages are ugly enough, with their fascination for orange and blue decor; but few of them look better once graffiti writers like "Crome" and "Fiba" and "Mist" have sprayed six cans of paint across their outsides.

These graffiti writers like to portray themselves as "people's artists", who risk their lives in the name of art. But Crome gave the game away when he admitted that the thrill was knowing that other graffiti writers would spot his "signature" all over town. "For me that's a hit of fame," he said, which makes you wonder, where, exactly, is Crome on his belief spiral?

## REVIEW



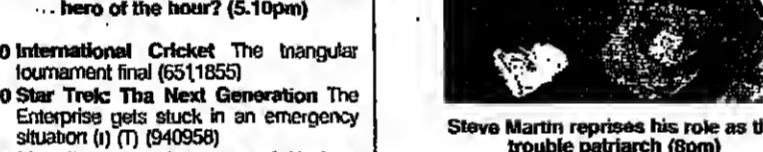
Joe Joseph

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (72590)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (25519)
- 9.00 Kilroy (T) (8187045)
- 9.45 The Vanessa Show (T) (4413720)
- 10.55 News; Weather (T) (5655584)
- 11.00 Real Rooms (6888681)
- 11.25 Can't Cook Won't Cook (T) (5655720)
- 11.55 News; Weather (T) (1765107)
- 12.00pm Call My Bluff (96958)
- 12.30 Wipeout (2896969)
- 12.55 The Weather Show (T) (48211671)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (22478)
- 1.30 Regional News; Weather (T) (7490038)
- 1.40 Neighbours (T) (2582294)
- 2.05 Live Snooker: Benson and Hedges Masters Peter Ebdon faces either Jimmy White or Mark King (3978555)
- 2.55 Body Spies (533045)
- 3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6216774)
- 3.45 Little Monsters (2013478) 3.50 ChuckleVision (5918590) 4.00 See It Saw It (3355584) 4.35 The Wiggles (951039) 5.00 Newsround (2456107)
- 5.10 Blue Peter (6007749)
- 5.35 Neighbours (T) (108836)
- 5.36 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (381)
- 5.30 Regional News Magazine (861)
- 7.00 Airport A "fair of flying" course is arranged for staff (T) (7478)
- 7.30 Dream House (T) (365)
- 8.00 Changing Rooms Neighbours in East Dulwich are challenged to revamp each other's bedrooms (T) (6126)
- 8.30 Battersea Dogs' Home An elderly man arrives at the home looking for a companion (T) (20530)
- 8.50 The National Lottery: Amazing Luck Stories (T) (288519)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (1229)
- 9.29 National Lottery Update (672855)
- 9.30 The X Files A blind woman poses a mystery of epic proportions after being found in a motel room where a murder has just been committed (T) (90385)



Will England's Darren Gough be the hero of the hour? (5.10pm)

- 10.15 **CHOICE** Inside Story Three wronged partners confront betrayal and heartbreak, including a woman whose husband ran off with his Internet lover (4.55) (T) (49432)
- 11.05 **CHOICE** Black and White New series. Following on from a project to expose racial discrimination in Bristol, two reporters pick up the investigation in Leeds (13) (T) (70554)
- 11.20 **SKY** Sunday Special Highlights of the World Championships (18234)
- 12.10am A Woman Seemed (TVB 1991) Drama based on a true story, starring Merle Dax as a woman who suspects her husband is having an affair — and takes a drastic form of revenge. Directed by Dick Lowry (T) (3308237)
- 1.40 Weather (8634985)
- 1.45 BBC News 24 (70359782)



Steve Martin reprises his role as the trouble patriarch (8pm)

- 2.00pm **CHOICE** Inside Story Three wronged partners confront betrayal and heartbreak, including a woman whose husband ran off with his Internet lover (4.55) (T) (49432)

### 5.10 International Cricket The triangular tournament final (561855)

6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation The Enterprise gets stuck in an emergency situation (T) (940587)

6.45 Live Snooker: Benson and Hedges Masters Further coverage (264855)

7.30 Tales from the Riverbank The natural history of the eel (T) (687)

8.00 Battle of the Sexes A look at the divisiveness of sex (T) (4768)

8.30 Home Front Stewart and Sally Walton create a functional living room for a frustrated Bristol family (1212) (T) (9403)

9.00 **CHOICE** Mersey Blues Chief Inspector or Elmore Davies is charged with corruption (T) (765381)

9.50 **CHOICE** Blood on the Carpet Account of how two interior florists were so appalled by the corporate rigour put upon them that they took matters into their own hands (T) (608403)

10.30 Newsnight (T) (565942)

11.15 Snooker: Benson and Hedges Masters Round-up (800590)

11.55 Weather (963294)

12.00am Dispatches Box Political news (50492)

12.30 BBC Learning Zone: Open University: Fertility Management 1.00 Newton's Revolution 1.30 The Physics of Ball Games 2.00 Science Special Needs — Ghostwriter 4.00 Languages: The French Experience 5.00 Business and Training: Voluntary Matters 5.30 20 Steps to Better Management: Telling People What You Think of Them 5.45 Open University: Body Plans 6.10 Insect Diversity 6.35 Molluscs, Mechanisms and Minds

7.00 Golf Extra 10.00 Sports Centre 18.15

7.10am A Thin Line Between Love and Hate (1995) (1086171) 2.00 Love Wins (T) (19817) 2.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (T) (1731) 11.00 Good Morning America (T) (1995) 11.15 About You (16473) 1.30 Jerry (T) (6403)

2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (24316) 3.00 The Heat (1995) (16471) 4.00 Gaby (8729)

5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1993) (1073)

5.30 The Simpsons (1989) 7.30 The Simpsons (9107) 8.00 Starz (SG-1) (56535) 9.00 The X-Files (1993) 10.15 Nailed in the Westminster (C9359) 11.00 The Big Bang Theory (T) (22387) 11.30 Coronation Street (56517) 1.30 Long Play (51955)

A look at people who have abandoned their partners (10.15pm)

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- 3.00 Double Team (1987) SKY BOX: OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)

- 3.00 Star Box: OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59)

- 3.00 Star Box: OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)

- 3.00 Star Box: OFFICE 5 (Transponder 57)

- 3.00 Star Box: OFFICE 6 (Transponder 56)

- 3.00 Star Box: OFFICE 7 (Transponder 55)

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- 3.00 Star Box: OFFICE 10 (Transponder 52)

- 3.00 Star Box: OFFICE 11 (Transponder 51)

- 3.00 Star Box: OFFICE 12 (Transponder 50)

- 3.00 Star Box: OFFICE 13 (Transponder 49)

- 3.00 Star Box: OFFICE 14 (Transponder 48)

- 3.00 Star Box: OFFICE 15 (Transponder 47)

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- 3.00 Star Box: OFFICE 34 (Transponder 28)

- 3.00 Star Box: OFFICE 35 (Transponder 27)

- 3.00 Star Box: OFFICE 36 (Transponder 26)

